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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 77 Feb. 5 2014

The "LOVE, MONTROSE!" Issue

FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES...CHILD POVERTY IN MONTROSE



Patty Ray of Hug-A-Bear Child Care works with a student on reading skills. Ray says that many Montrose families are struggling just to get by. Photo by Cara Fandel.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—What a difference 12 months can make. When Patty Ray opened her Montrose business, Hug-A-Bear Child Care & Learning Center, in 2007, her clients were 90-percent private payers.

"Then the economy tanked, and parents were no longer working," Ray recalls. "In one year I saw the trend reverse—suddenly 90 percent of our clients were on child care assistance, as people lost their jobs, their homes, their cars."

Today, though Hug-A-Bear Child Care & Learning Center remains near its capacity of 50 kids per day from age six-weeks to around ten years, 95 percent of clients are on some form of childcare assistance, Ray said. And things are not getting any better.

"Child poverty here in Montrose is horrendous," Ray said. "And this year is the worst ever—kids come in without coats, without snow boots, without anything. Thank goodness for Cobble Creek Golf Course—they graciously

Continued on page 4

MAKING MUSIC THAT FOLKS WANT TO HEAR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On the wall of John Anders' [SunnyDaze Productions](#) recording studio on Spring Creek there is a picture of his late son Ryan, a talented young musician, playing guitar.

"I really started this studio for him," Anders said. "After he died I didn't come out here for long time. Finally, I decided I might as well come out here and do something myself."

And in the picture of his boy, Anders points out a second image below and just behind Ryan himself.

"This picture has an angel in it," Anders said. "I like that."

One could point out that the studio has an 'angel' in it as well—Anders himself. A lifelong musician who started playing at age 10, he sometimes sits in with the Ghost River Band and with his younger brothers, twins Larry and Jerry of the Anders Brothers Band. Lining one wall of the studio are a variety of string instruments, obviously well-used.

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Montrose musician and native John Anders at his SunnyDaze Productions recording studio on Spring Creek. Photo by Brad Switzer.

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COLORADO VOICES—FEATURING JOURNALIST MARISSA ISGREEN

It's All About The Music...Def. Rhymes. Divine.



Fort Collins hip hop collective Def. Rhymes. Divine. was started nine years ago by a group of boys who were in junior high school. Today the popular group includes nine rappers and two producers. Courtesy photos.

By Marissa Isgreen

Northern Colorado Correspondent

FORT COLLINS-- Almost a decade ago, a group of junior high boys with a love for hip hop created a band: Def. Rhymes. Divine. Now, nine years later, the band's name remains the same, but the group has grown to nine rappers and two producers.

"There's no way we knew it would last so long," rapper Sam Mouton said. "But we do it for the love of chillin' in a basement, recording."

Band members hail from both Fort Collins and Boulder, which makes practicing a challenge. Employing technology to their advantage the band uses FaceTime to hold meetings. Practices include going over everyone's assigned parts, creating set lists and making everything flow professionally.

The Fort Collins band draws inspiration from other hip hop artists including Nas, The Wu-Tang Clan and Grieves. Mouton explained that because of the number of artists in Def. Rhymes. Divine, their content is wide and diverse. They rap about anything from partying and love to the state of hip hop and current political issues.

"It's really just whatever comes to mind," rapper Jesse Neth explained.

"We have an obnoxious repertoire of music," Mouton said.

With 11 members, the band has numerous combinations for producing group, solo and collaborative projects all under the name Def. Rhymes. Divine. According to the band, they write and record so much material that they can produce a new album every six weeks.

Booking shows is a "really unorthodox process," Neth said. Members contact people they know to play shows. Then, once they are known within the community, venues call them back to open for larger artists. The band has opened for well-known rap artist Grieves twice, performing for a sold-out audience both times.

Having performed a number of times now, rapper Callahan Montoya said their nerves don't act up anymore. "We're all confident in our on-stage ability and the abilities of each other," rapper Mike Olson agreed.

According to the band, the bigger problem is getting to shows on time.

Laughing, Neth, Montoya, Olson and Mouton recounted one performance that

they didn't make it to in the nick of time. When the band arrived at the venue, the doorman wouldn't let them into the back and sent them up front. They received the same response from the front doorman and were sent back again. When they finally were allowed in and made it on stage, the band was officially late. Many bands have pre-show rituals. For Def. Rhymes. Divine, their only ritual is the chaos. "We do a lot of weird stuff before shows, but none of it is routine," Mouton said.

As well as promoting through Facebook, Twitter, Bandcamp and their personal website, the band's marketing strategy is to hand out their albums for free.

"We have to create a following before we sell anything for money," Olson explained.

Starting out, "there were always people hating," Montoya said. "And we weren't always good," Olson added. But the band feels that in the nine years they have been together, they've developed a unique flavor. The band attributes their longevity and few internal disputes to the fact that they were all friends prior to the band's formation. "We're a D.R. Democracy (Def. Rhymes. Democracy.)," Olson said. "There's no one leader."

According to band members, they aren't really known outside the Fort Collins area although that is one of their next goals. The band has played in local venues such as the Aggie, Hodi's Half Note and the Lory Student Center as well as a show in Salt Lake City. "We have some die-hard fans," Mouton said, but they would like to acquire more, in addition to recording and performing outside of Colorado and eventually starting their own record label.

"It's all about the music," Neth said, and laughing, added, "And the money."

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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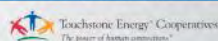
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FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES...CHILD POVERTY IN MONTROSE From page 1

helped us with Christmas for kids who would have had no gifts, and no dinner. They gave 16 families \$50 gift certificates, and made sure 26 kids got presents who would not have had Christmas at all.

"They are wonderful to us every year, but this year was hardest of all."

Juli Messenger, executive director of the non-profit Partners of Montrose and Delta counties, said that need for the organization's services is almost overwhelming.

"The need I see is just mind-numbing," Messenger said. "Kids arrive to activities without having eaten; we always provide a snack if there is no meal, because so many of them are hungry."

With so many local parents struggling to feed their families, Messenger said she has found her own priorities shifting.

"I think there are just some things you understand best if you are sitting down to an empty dinner table," she said.

For 20 years, the [KidsCount](#) project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation has been compiling statistics on child well-being in America. According to KidsCount data, Colorado currently ranks 19 out of 50 states when it comes to overall economic well-being, but ranks 21 out of 50 states when it comes to the well-being of children living in the state.

Child well-being rankings are based on 12 indicators in the areas of children's health, education, and family and community support. Of the 25 counties in Colorado considered large enough to be ranked (there are 64 counties in the state), Douglas County scores the highest marks for child well-being, while Denver County ranks lowest. Here in the six-county West Central Region of the Western Slope, only Montrose and Delta counties were considered large enough to be ranked, coming in at 18th and 20th respectively for child well-being indicators. Neighboring Mesa and La Plata counties, both home to institutions of higher education, were ranked 12th and 10th in the state, respectively.

By analyzing the local data, Colorado communities can do a better job serving children, Colorado Children's Campaign CEO Chris Watney said.

"Where a child lives has significant implications on whether she can access

health care, quality education and enjoy a safe neighborhood," Watney said in a news release. "There are many children doing very well in Colorado, but also a lot of kids who are struggling. Digging into the data helps local and state policy makers, as well as committed individuals in communities, focus proven solutions in areas where kids need the most help."

Statewide, 18 percent of Colorado's kids live in poverty, according to KidsCount data. In Montrose County, the child poverty rate is 25.3 percent, compared to 24.8 percent in Delta County, 18.2 percent in Gunnison County, 17.4 percent in Ouray County, 16.4 percent in San Miguel County, and 27.7 percent in Hinsdale County.

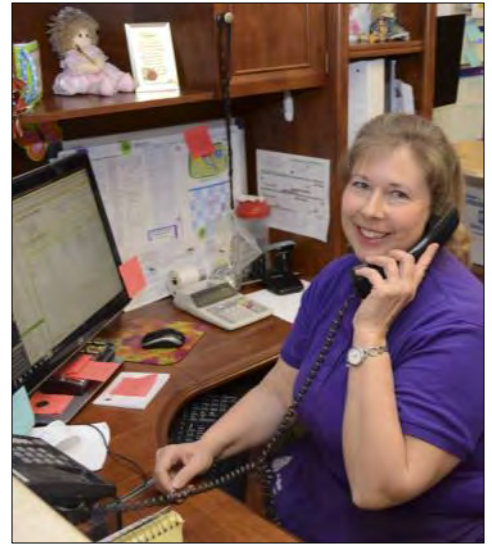
Data compiled for the most recent "[Inside Montrose County](#)" report notes that young families are now six times more likely to be poor than older families, that more than one-third of the local population can be classified as "low income," and that the caseload for self-sufficiency programs increased between 60 to 100 percent from 2008 to 2012.

Educational opportunities also correlate to child well-being. KidsCount data notes that, here in Montrose County, KidsCount stats show a graduation rate of 78 percent, compared to 84 percent in Delta County, 87 percent in Gunnison County, 86 percent in Ouray County, 88 percent in San Miguel County and 80 percent in Hinsdale County.

Patty Ray said that based on her own experiences, Montrose needs jobs more than anything else right now. She believes a more sensitive tax-structure would allow employers like herself to hire more people—she currently employs 12—and would encourage other employers to do business in Montrose.

"Couples are struggling, not just single parents," Ray said.

"It's time our city and our county look at attracting more businesses to the area," she said. "I have seen a lot of families come and go because they couldn't find work, and lots of folks who did have jobs don't have jobs now. So many of our parents are working to re-invent themselves—they have gone back to school, and now many of them are about to get out and look for



As a business owner who works with young families, Patty Ray hopes that local officials will emphasize new job creation, and perhaps invite businesses like Cabela's to Montrose. Photo by Cara Fandel.

jobs—but where are the jobs?

"We should re-invite Cabela's to locate here," she said. "Let's really focus on that type of company and that kind of sell. We need to re-invent ourselves!"

Chuck Turner of Montrose, 20, who graduated from Montrose High School in 2012, knows firsthand about the hardships of growing up without financial security or a stable home environment. Though Chuck—always a good student—plans to go on to college soon, it has not been easy.

"Well, not growing up with a lot of stuff that other people have can have a negative impact and make some kids feel like they're never gonna be good enough to have those things or be able to provide those things to their kids when they have their own," Turner said. "Some of my friends that have been in similar situations as me feel that way. I, on the other hand, accepted the challenge and it's pushed me harder to do well in life and that's what I'm planning on. Instead of letting it hold me back, as others would, I think of it making me stronger than someone who grew up with a lot of opportunities because they would feel that a good opportunity will just be dropped in their lap.

"That's just how I feel."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER TAKES HELM



Don L. Marker.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-- On Monday, January 13th the keys to DMEA were handed to Don L. Marker, recently retired General Manager/CEO of Sioux Valley Energy of Colman, South Dakota. Marker

now takes the helm as DMEA's Interim General Manager following the retirement of 29-year DMEA veteran, Dan McClendon. In the following days, Marker has been getting to know the Board and Staff of DMEA and beginning to chart a course

of transition for the electric co-op. "I view this role to be one that facilitates and supports an effective transition to DMEA's next General Manager. I also offer my assistance to the board in finding the right manager to continue the successes DMEA has enjoyed over the years."

The retirement of Dan McClendon was announced in December, 2013. On Marker's first day, McClendon, sporting his newly acquired "Visitor" badge, was available to give Marker a brief tour of the DMEA headquarters and offer some parting words of wisdom.

The DMEA Board, using Executive Search Consultant, Mycoff and Associates continues to seek a suitable long-term successor—a process that can take six months or longer.

In the mean time, DMEA will benefit from Marker's many years of experience in

the electric co-op world.

Marker's previous charge, Sioux Valley Energy, is an electric co-op which provides service to over 21,000 customers in southeastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. (DMEA serves about 27,000+ members.) Prior to assuming the position of General Manager/CEO for Sioux Valley Energy, Don was Director of Finance, Customer Service and Marketing.

Don has also served as General Manager of Harrison Rural Electric Cooperative in Cynthiana, Kentucky and as the Assistant General Manager for Administration for East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, South Dakota.

His other related experience includes working for the Kansas Utilities Commission in Topeka, Kansas; Minnegasco, inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Midwest Energy of Hays, Kansas.

Pavilion Public Bus Stop Changes to Flex Service

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-- In keeping with an emphasis on efficiency and excellent service, All Points Transit will soon implement a small change for **general public** bus passengers who board APT's Gold Route at the Montrose Pavilion. As of Feb. 3, passengers will need to call in advance to schedule a pick up at the Pavilion. **These changes will have no impact on the Dial-A-Ride "lunch bunch" route that brings seniors to the Pavilion for meals every day.**

Since All Points Transit began running the Montrose City Bus in September of 2010, the Pavilion has been a regular stop on Gold Mine Route 3. The bus stops at the Pavilion two times per hour between 7am and 7pm; once headed south toward shopping and work destinations on South Townsend and a second time headed back north toward the hospital and Downtown Montrose.

"Gold Route is our busiest route," said Mobility Manager Sarah Curtis. "By asking passengers to call in advance, we can

serve the traveling public more efficiently. We know the Pavilion is an important part of the Montrose community, and we will continue to serve the stop without any additional charge."

All of the public route buses will deviate up to a half mile off route for a "flex" stop, with 24 hours' notice. Flex service usually costs an extra \$1 above regular pass rates. Passengers at the Pavilion stop will not be charged the extra \$1 and can schedule their ride with just one hours' notice by calling 249-0128.



Just in thyme for spring ...

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Steven Hannah MHA becomes new Montrose Memorial Hospital CEO

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Board of Directors at Montrose Memorial Hospital announced that Steven Hannah will become the hospital CEO beginning February 19, 2014. Steve is currently the COO at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Georgia and was previously the CEO at Barrett Hospital in Dillon, Montana. Mr. Hannah has over 20 years of hospital administration experience

and is enthusiastic about the opportunities at MMH.

Steve Hannah is a Colorado native and will bring his wife Melissa and their 10 year old son Joe to Montrose. They enjoy being actively involved in their community and look forward to learning about our area and all it has to offer. Debi Harmon, Board President said "The Board is excited to have Steve join Montrose Memorial

Hospital. He brings a strong background in hospital management and will be an asset to our community."

*Right- Steven Hannah.
Courtesy photo.*



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LOCATION: Delta Public Library, 211 W. 6th St.-Delta, CO.

TIME: One hour appointments scheduled from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT: 249-9639 - First come, first serve

CANCELLATIONS: If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please call back to cancel so we can schedule someone else to help.

PLEASE: Talk to your counselor regarding what items to bring for the counseling session.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MARCI COLBY NAMED NEW BRANCH MANAGER OF ALPINE BANK IN AVON



Marci Colby has been promoted from vice president/manager of the Edwards branch to vice president/manager of the Avon branch. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL—Alpine Bank offers congratulations to Marci Colby on her promotion from vice president/manager of the Edwards branch to vice president/manager of the Avon branch.

Marci assumes this position from Mike Brown who recently accepted the role of regional president for the Vail Valley and Steamboat Springs region.

“Marci has proven her leadership skills at our locations in Eagle and in Edwards,” said Mike.

“She was the logical choice to assume the role in Avon.”

Marci began her career with Alpine Bank in 2003 and gained experience in different aspects of the bank from customer service to lending to management. She has been trusted to manage the Edwards location for the last 7 ½ years.

“I look forward to continuing to cultivate the current relationships Alpine Bank has in the community,” said Marci.

As past president of the Edwards Rotary

Club, member of Habitat for Humanity’s finance committee, Vail Jazz Foundation board member and board member of Channel 5, a local public access television network, Marci’s dedication to the community is evident.

Marci is an avid reader and enjoys spending time with her family. She and Shawn Colby married in May of 2002 and they have two children – Wyatt, age 5 and Chloe, age 2.

If you’d like to contact Marci for questions, comments, or suggestions, you can reach her direct at 970.748.5707, or via email at marcolby@alpinebank.com.

Alpine Bank is a \$2.4 billion dollar, employee-owned organization chartered in 1973 with headquarters in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

With 36 western and southwestern Colorado banking offices, Alpine Bank employs over 500 local people and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, trust, asset management, mortgage and electronic banking services.

Cara Fandel INSPIRATION THROUGH IMAGING



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MAKING MUSIC THAT FOLKS WANT TO HEAR FROM PAGE 1



"I sell real estate so I can buy equipment," Anders laughed. "To get good recordings, you need good equipment."

Anders said that he bases his own recording work on what he has to offer—knowledge, experience and sound.

"It's fun, and it's a challenge too," he said. "I work on a Mac Computer, with Pro Tools. It has taken me a little while to learn—these young kids pick things up real fast, but when you're a little older you're a little slower."

Picking up the little things that others don't hear is essential, even more now than in the past, he said. He begins a recording with the rhythm tracks, and adds vocals last. There is a separate booth in the studio for drummers.

"The whole secret to recording is to isolate," he said. "In the 70's I had a recording studio, but everything was analog. Now, with digital, it is much simpler to edit."

SunnyDaze Productions is the only recording studio in Montrose, he said. Local musicians Kurt Isgreen and Bob Becker often serve as backup players, and Anders finds himself mentoring younger musicians like Emma Cooper, Brea DeJulio and Ethan Cooke.

"I really like to work with the young folks, and help get them started," he said. "It's great to see them progress."

Montrose Realtor and mom Denece Crowe is among the gifted adult musicians who have shared their talents with SunnyDaze Productions.

"I was honored when Emma Cooper asked me to sing on her album," Crowe said. "Having known John Anders for years, I knew it would be a fun experience as well. John has such a love for music and a passion for supporting the artists he works with. Recording with Emma and John turned out to be more than just fun."

"It was truly inspiring."

For Anders, a gifted singer and entertainer, sharing music with others appears to be the greatest gift of all.

"This weekend we had 29 people in here," he noted.

"Three rows of chairs, and food too. It was crowded, but we sure had a good time."

John Anders stands at the door of his SunnyDaze Productions recording studio on Spring Creek. Photo by Brad Switzer.

"We play a little of everything here," Anders said. "I've been in the music business since age 10—we got our start as a band in the 1960's, though we really didn't get it going until the 1970's. I taught my brothers a few chords, and they had such great ears they just started to play."

The first equipment he ever purchased came from Herbert Music of Delta.

"I bought two guitars, a bass, two amps and a Bogen P.A.," Anders said. "It cost \$3,500, and I financed it. My parents almost freaked out. But we started a band, though at first we almost had to pay people to let us play. I told my brothers when we got started to just play like we were at home, throwing a party for these folks in our living room. We got to make 'em happy, and play the music they want to hear."

"Our first gig was in Ridgway, at a place called Fats-n-Slats," he said. "We earned \$50, and we split it."

After a while, the brothers decided that playing music for high school proms and other events was a good idea, if they could get the gigs.

"We had an uncle who flew an airplane," Anders said. "We had decided, let's see if

we can get some proms to play, and pay all this stuff off."

The group made a cheap demo recording, and decided to go after the Nucla Prom.

"We got our uncle to fly us over there in the Super Cub," he said, "and when we got there, all these kids were standing there, watching! They hired us right on the spot, and we started playing proms."

The band took time off while the twins were in college, he said.

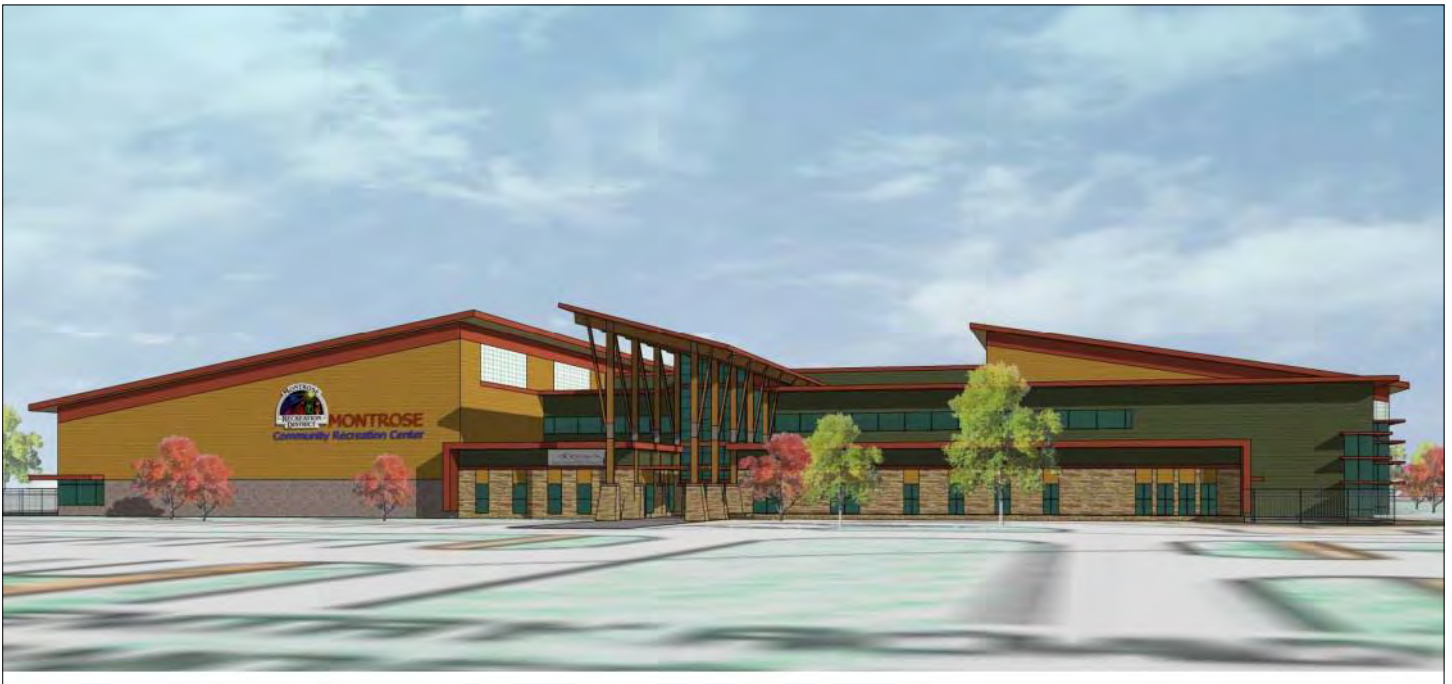
"They went to college in Oklahoma, baseball schools," John said. "They had a little group and toured the Northwest, making good money and having lots of fun. But when that got old, they settled back down here, and we played together again."

In addition to plenty of ski area gigs, Anders Brothers once opened for Flash Cadillac at CSU.

"Someone there wrote a review afterwards," Anders said. "They weren't too pleased with Flash Cadillac, but they really liked the Anders Brothers."

Today, Anders makes his living as a realtor with Coldwell Banker, where he specializes in farm and ranch sales.

TO REC OR NOT TO REC? VOTERS TO DECIDE APRIL 1



A drawing of the proposed Community Recreation Center by Denver Architects Barker Rinker Seacat. Courtesy image.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—In April, Montrose city voters will decide whether to move forward with construction of a new Community Recreation Center. The Mirror spoke with supporters and opponents of Measure B to gain a better understanding of what is at stake.

“NOW IS THE TIME”

Proponents of a new Montrose Community Recreation Center, which has been approved for placement on the City’s April ballot, assert that if the measure is successful, the construction process alone will have a \$50 million impact on the community. That number comes from a study prepared by RPI Consultants on behalf of the Rec District.

“As a public board asking for community support in the form of a sales tax increase, we felt it was important to have an independent expert study the economic impact a recreation center would have on the community. This will ensure we are building a center that will contribute to the community’s overall fiscal health. The report prepared by RPI shows clear economic impact over and above the projected \$1.25 million per year raised by the temporary 0.3 percent sales tax,” said John Pope, vice president of the Montrose Recreation District

board of directors, in a news release issued last week.

The MRD news release also states that, according to the RPI report, once the facility is built, an expected \$4.6 million per year impact will be derived from operations of the facility itself, combined with the spending by visitors on goods related to the outing such as gas, food and supplies.

“Measure B will be on the City of Montrose spring ballot, and reflects a 0.3 percent temporary sales tax (3 cents per \$10 purchase) to help construct The Montrose Community Recreation Center,” notes the news release. “Votes are due by 7 pm on Tuesday April 1, 2014. The center will be located at Woodgate and Ogden on a 26-acre site owned by the Rec District, and is designed for the entire community, offering more than 85 new or enhanced programs. The center will feature an eight-lane pool, warm leisure pool with a lazy river, therapy and spa pools, fitness area with weights and cardio, three-lane walking/jogging track, multipurpose gymnasium, two racquetball courts, multipurpose and active community rooms, indoor playground, family game room, climbing wall, child watch area, family changing rooms and modern locker rooms.”

According to the <http://www.Montrosecrc.org> web site, advantages include the potential for free use by seniors and qualifying adults. The present facility at Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande would be converted to a turf field house.

Montrose Recreation District Director Ken Sherbenou offered a number of reasons when asked, “Why now?”

“The Montrose Recreation District recently completed the Community Rec. Center (CRC) and Woodgate Master Plan,” he said. “This built off the foundation of the CRC feasibility study from 2011; this effort, which has spanned nearly four years now, produced the outcome of the MRD voting unanimously to pursue a 0.3 percent temporary sales tax increase to bridge the gap in funding to make the project happen. The project includes construction of Montrose’s first multi-purpose recreation center at the MRD-owned Woodgate and Ogden property, followed by the conversion of the current indoor pool into an indoor turf field. The ‘now’ is tied to the reality that the current indoor pool is at the end of its shelf life, and that it was built to only be a 25-year building. Even if fixing it were possible, it is still inadequate to meet the needs

Continued on page 47

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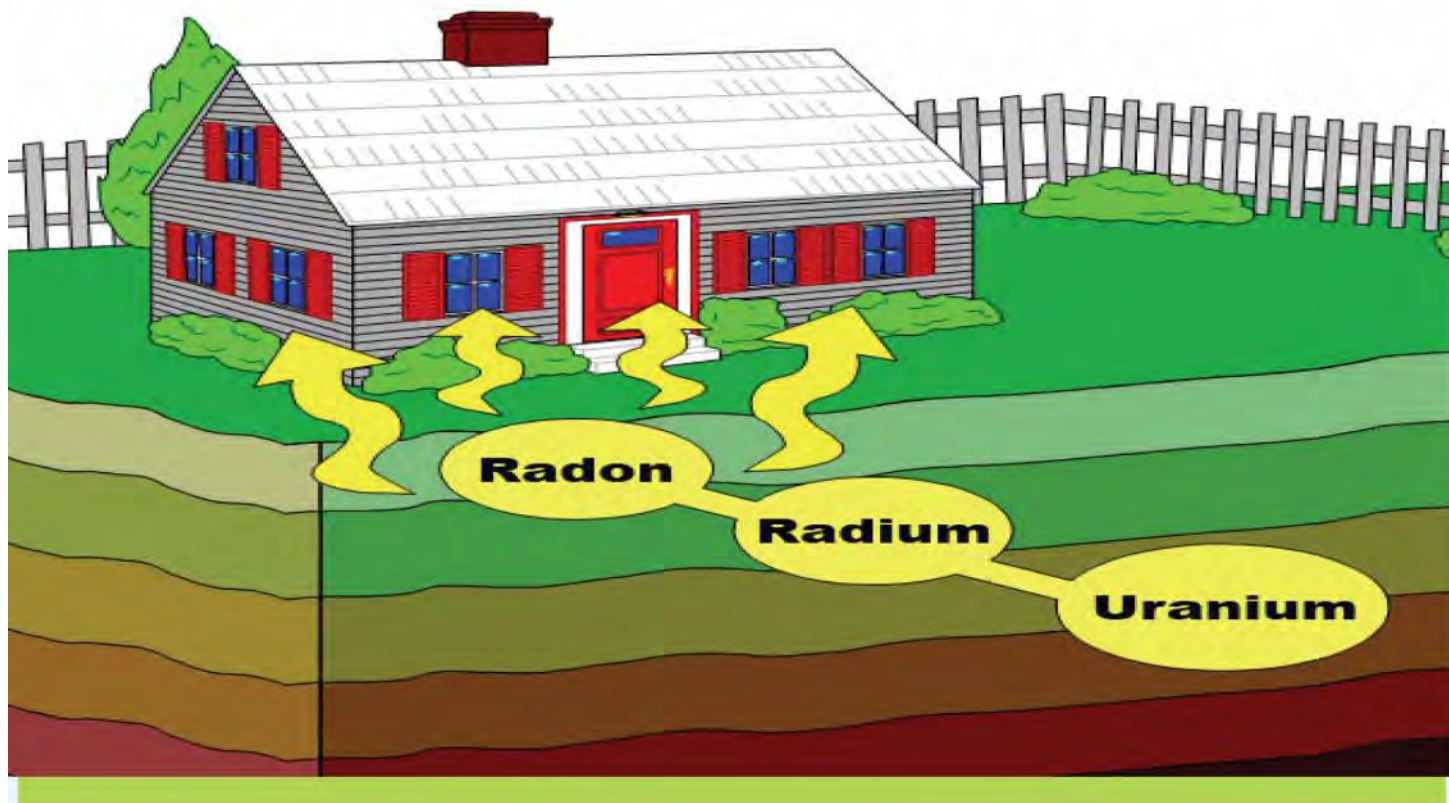
Thursday, February 13, 2:00—3:00pm AND 5:15—6:15 pm

Tuesday, February 18, 2:00—3:00pm AND 5:15—6:15 pm

Thursday, February 20, 2:00—3:00pm AND 5:15—6:15 pm

A free short term radon test kit will be available for homeowners.

Call 970-252-5067 for more information.



LOCAL SENIOR TAKES ON GOVERNMENT ABUSE, WINS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—She has led a very full life—as a teacher at Cedaredge High School, Winifred Tappan worked with special education students for years before moving to Montrose. Earlier, as the wife of a Presbyterian Minister for 20 years, she had earned a Bachelor's degree at age 50 and went on to get her Masters, arriving in Cedaredge after stints teaching in both West Virginia and New Mexico.

Yet at an age when many feel the need to slow down, Tappan has launched yet another career—as an author and activist.

"I will be 88 in February," said Tappan. "But if anyone has a problem, I am still trying to solve it."

It was in 2004 that Tappan, a member of the teachers' union, found herself immersed in a very personal Social Security nightmare.

"Social Security informed me that they had overpaid me," she said, "and that I had to pay back \$25,000."

Tappan blames the extremely complicated system of benefits calculation, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and something called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

"When Social Security applies these complex laws to peoples' benefits, they often make mistakes, a lot of mistakes," Tappan now tells other seniors, in a presentation she has prepared. She has also written a book about her experience, *Grappling with Government Abuse: My Social Security Nightmare*. Her personal struggle has become a source of support for other seniors dealing with the same issue, and Tappan has been featured in articles by the National Education Association.

Under the WEP, Social Security takes 40 percent of a public servant's pension, Tappan said, and the larger the pension, the bigger the chunk. The GPO, which concerns benefits from a deceased spouse, takes roughly 2/3 of a pension out of an individual's Social Security benefits, she said.

She finds herself very, very busy these

days—and a source of inspiration for other retired public servants across the nation.

"This is a very widespread problem," Tappan said. "The laws are so complicated, and Social Security is never wrong. To me, the whole process they go through to figure benefits is so complex, it is the reason they make so many mistakes. A lady called me from Illinois last week—her husband had died in July and she went to Social Security to report his death. They took her into a backroom and told her they had overpaid her for 11 years, and overpaid her children. She was a school nurse, and now she owes \$49,000."

"Of course, the fact that it is your money to begin with has no bearing."

In the case of her own spouse, Tappan said Social Security took two thirds of survivor benefits though she was entitled to half.

"This affects police and firemen too," she explained, "and anyone who has a state pension."

Under the WEP and GPO, union members struggling with this issue can obtain representation through their union, she added.

"Go to them and seek legal help," she said. "My local education association furnished me with a lawyer—a very good one. I wrote to my Congressman, who was John Salazar at the time, and he assigned a staffer to work with me. He wrote letters. I advise going to your congressperson, as they have an office set up to handle problems with Social Security."

It was not easy to endure the process, which required extensive documentation.

"At one point, the lawyer asked me why I had so many shoes," Tappan said. "But my feet had gotten one size larger with age, and I needed all new pairs. It burned me up, but I had to write it down."

And in the end?

"I didn't have to pay a dime," she said.

A bill to repeal the WEP has been mired in committees, and current Senator Michael Bennett does not advocate its repeal, Tappan noted.

"I received a letter from his office, and

they don't even mention the money they have wasted overpaying people," Tappan said. "My point is that, in light of the fact that these overpayments are so widespread for victims, and given the cost to So-

cial Security to recover the overpayments, it would seem to make sense to repeal the laws that caused this problem in the first place."

Tappan, who has also written a book on Lactose Intolerance, shares her information and her work with others through her Facebook and web sites.

"I send lots of emails," she said. "Any information that I come across the might be useful, I send out."

"My goal in all of this is threefold: get the information and help to anyone who needs it; get congressmen involved in helping their constituents deal with these massive mistakes...and increase public understanding and thus pressure on Congress to repeal these laws."

Though she finds herself very, very busy these days—in addition to her advocacy work she sits on the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center committee and works as an editor for the local branch of the AARP—Tappan also hopes to continue her work as a writer by chronicling the lives of other seniors.

It's not about earning money, but about giving back—something Tappan has emphasized throughout her life.

"I borrowed money to publish my books, and I would not feel right about profiting," she said.

"Also, I don't want Social Security to come after me."



Author, educator and activist Wini Tappan. Courtesy photo.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE MONTROSE MIRROR!

YOUR ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY NEWSBLAST IN MONTROSE COLORADO!

PRODUCERS COOP HOSTS FIRST HORSE OWNERS WORKSHOP



The First Annual Horse Owners Workshop will take place Feb. 8 at 38 West Main Street. Courtesy image.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE--For local horse owners looking for more resources, the Producer's Co-op in Montrose has the solution. Come join them for the First Annual Horse Owner's Workshop, sponsored by Purina, on Feb. 8, 8 a.m.-Noon. at 38 West

Main Street in Montrose.

Originally a broker for farmers in the 1920s, the Producer's Co-op has grown to provide products and services for farmers, pet owners, home gardeners, and everybody in between. The Co-op offers seeds, fertilizers, bulk fuel, any type of tire repairs, panels and gates, livestock equipment, pet food, pellets, and more.

Many people may be under the impression that they have to be a member to shop at the Co-op, which is not true. Anyone can come and shop for what they need there. "Anybody who has livestock or pets will spend their money locally, if good products and services are available locally," Assistant store manager Amanda Flowers explained. "And we have a good selection of both in this area to pick from."

Speakers will include Purina, the San Juan Vet Clinic, Jason Mercly, and a surprise speaker. Drawings will be offered, including coupons, gift baskets from the Vet Clinic, and Purina offering a year of horse feed of any kind to one lucky winner. The Co-op will also have their various horse-related items on display.

The Co-op let the speakers pick the topics, as each is more familiar of what topics are important to local horse owners. The San Juan Vet Clinic will be speaking on the importance of oral care for horses.

With the current economy, Purina chose to talk about affordable food and nutrition

options. As laminitis founder is a common problem, and people may not know how to treat it or prevent it, Jason Mercly will talk about it. The speakers will offer different perspectives and will be available for questions.

As the owner of one horse, Flowers has an interesting perspective while helping host the workshop. "I'm looking forward to seeing what the speakers have to say and the interaction between the speakers and attendees," she said.

The event will be the first of its kind offered by the Co-op. Purina started doing these events a few years ago and approached the Co-op about doing one as well.

While the Co-op does a lot for farmers, this year they decided to do a little extra something for all their other customers by offering a special workshop each month. This month they are focused on the horse owners in the area, who are made up of a few breeders, but are mostly people with 2-3 horses who go on trail rides or camping trips.

Flowers is excited for the workshop. "I'm looking forward to the first year, to see how it goes and how we can grow it and do something different for horse owners in the future."

For more information, call 249-5623 or visit the Producer's Co-op at 38 West Main Street in Montrose.


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CATLIN SPEAKS OUT ON IMPENDING WATER CRISIS

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-- Marc Catlin spoke at the Montrose High School Cafeteria on Jan. 23 on the impending water crisis. Marc Catlin is the former Manager of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association as well as a member of other water related entities.

"I'm a farm kid, so water is near and dear to my heart," he said. "When I was growing up, I thought that Colorado was drought-proof. But in 2002 that was proven not to be the case. We had to manage the water to the max with the tools available to us."

The water issues in our area are clearly visible to locals. "The Blue Mesa bothers all of us," Catlin said. "It is 46 percent full and looks like heck. The long term forecast is not good. It will be tough this summer if we do not get snow quickly."

Catlin talked about one of the problems this year with the snow pack. "I'm not a subscriber to climate change, but I do believe that there is more dust on the snow, helping it to melt faster," he said. "The San Juans look like mud. The dust is coming out of the deserts and we have even found plastic sacks from Las Vegas."

The Western Slope faces a huge problem in the future. It is projected that there will be a shortage of a 800,000 acre-feet a year by 2030; a full Blue Mesa worth of water

short every year, with an increasing population to add to the strain. "Gone is gone, no matter if goes to the Eastern Slope or through the Black Canyon," he said.

Catlin emphasized what the issue is truly all about. "There is a myth that the Gunnison River has too much water in it," he explained. "People need to know that there is not too much water: the water is actually over appropriated. There are more water rights filed than water to meet those demands."

The important feature of the Colorado River is the 'First in times, first in use' water right system set up long ago. It has worked well, but there is talk of taking that system out and replacing it with a 'public use' system, where everything would be stacked up and the public would vote on what is the most important use of the water. The concern is that system would take the water away from agriculture and put it towards recreation. "Here we have 80 percent of the water, but only 20 percent of the people," Catlin said. "There is an unspoken threat from Denver: 'get along with us or we will vote the water out.'"

The Colorado River is also under the strain of having to meet its part of the Colorado Compact requirements, sending water to seven different states.

Looking to the future of water in the area, Catlin said that we will have to look at Las

Vegas, the poster child of water conservation. It grew by millions of people, but has cut their water use by 30 percent.

"We are doing our part by putting water back in the river," Catlin said.

"Sustainable agriculture needs the water it's got. But we need to be a lot smarter. Agriculture that does good should be rewarded for doing good."

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience.

One question was on the possibility of building more reservoirs in the state.

"There are currently no plans to build reservoirs on either side of the mountains," Catlin said. "In the future, we will not build one or two big reservoirs, more like dozens of smaller ones. We don't have the technology to build big reservoirs while leaving a small footprint on the environment. Historically that was a problem, but now environmental groups are seeing the use of reservoirs. We have had to adapt to one another, but future reservoirs will take into account the elements of agriculture, the environment, recreation, and possibly hydro power."

Catlin works to help people understand the issues surrounding water usage in the area. "We were really lucky in having visionary leaders in Montrose concerning water," he said. "But once water leaves here, it's never coming back."

CITY REMINDER ON SNOW REMOVAL POLICIES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Help keep yourself and others safe during snowy weather by becoming familiar with the City of Montrose's snow removal routes and policies.

Residents and businesses are reminded to ease the impact of snowstorms by keeping public sidewalks free of snow and ice as required by City ordinance. Snow cannot be removed into the streets, sidewalks, or public rights of way, as it causes hazardous driving conditions in the streets. All snow must be deposited on to your own property.

Removing snow onto your own property

and not shoveling snow into the street also helps keep gutters and storm drains open. Diligence in removing snow and ice from sidewalks is an important courtesy to your fellow residents and contributes to everyone's safety.

Because it is impractical for the City to perform snow removal operations in every part of the city, "snow routes" have been established to focus the city's efforts on primary transportation corridors.

These routes have been scaled to fully utilize the City's snow removal equipment. While the City's snow removal operations in residential areas are limited, City crews

do respond to safety hazards at intersections and obstructions to storm drains or gutters caused by accumulated snow and ice.

Of course, there are many hazards inherent to snow and ice and residents should use caution when walking or driving under these conditions.

To view the "Snow Routes Map" for information about specific street priorities and for further information about the City's policy and procedures on snow removal, please visit the City's home page at www.CityofMontrose.org and click on "View All" under "Montrose News."



MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Montrose County Office of Vital Statistics Receives Top Honors

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Montrose County Clerk and Recorder **Fran Long** has yet another reason to brag about her talented staff—the Montrose County Office of Vital Statistics was one of six recipients of the 2013 Five Star Performance Award from Ronald S. Hyman, the State Registrar and Director of the Office of Vital Statistics.

“This is a proud moment in my career as an elected official,” said Long. “To achieve this award not only sets our office apart as one of the best in the state, but it also fulfills one of our objectives from the citizen-driven strategic plan for the coun-

ty.”

The award sets a high performance standard for all vital statistics offices in Colorado including meeting the following criteria: 100 percent on two separate application audits, all policy receipts signed and returned by deadline, all surveys completed by the deadline, timely responsiveness to inquiries regarding billing, registration and quality assurance, 100 percent timeliness on death certificate registration from the local to state office, 100 percent completion of death certificate registration including date and signature, and complete alteration form; complete registration of

unattended home birth; all with zero callbacks and timely completion of all designated COTrain modules (20) for all primary and backup deputies.

The following staff is recognized for their commitment to excellence, extraordinary accomplishments, professionalism, accuracy and attention to detail:

Pearl Lynch (Local Registrar), **Norma Tabor** (previous Local Registrar), **Shawn Castle** (Deputy Registrar), **Dharma Conant** (Deputy Registrar), **Jana Millican** (Deputy Registrar), **Deborah Rudy** (Deputy Registrar), **Francine Tipton-Long** (Deputy Registrar).

Montrose County Dispatch's Transition to New Building was a Seamless Operation

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- The Montrose County Dispatch Center transitioned from a room in the Sheriff's Office to their own building at the Montrose County Justice Center Annex Complex in the early morning hours of January 22nd. “This project has been in the planning stages for at least two years,” said Montrose County Sheriff **Rick Dunlap**. “Communications staff including Susan Byrne, Robbi Murdie and Robert Svacha were critical to the success of this project and I'm proud of their diligent work. The new center will allow the 911 dispatch center to effectively handle increased call volume, prepare for large scale emergency response and provide overall better service to the 30-plus agencies that dispatch serves.”

“This is all new technology for the dispatchers—everything is brand new,” said Montrose County Sheriff's Office Communications Director **Susan Byrne**.

“Our staff of over 15 are so well-trained and skilled that they were able to adapt quickly to the new center and continue to provide an excellent level of service to all callers and responders.”

The official cut over occurred at approxi-



mately 3 a.m., with the dedicated help of Montrose County Sheriff's Office Communications staff, Montrose County Information Technology, Montrose County

Facilities, Cassidian Communications, Wireless Advanced Communication, Quality Distribution Services and CenturyLink Communications.

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MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS AND INFORMATION

COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO OFFER SCHOLARSHIP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Montrose County Sheriff **Rick Dunlap** has announced that County Sheriffs of Colorado, Inc. (CSOC), the state Sheriffs Association, will award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Montrose County student this spring. CSOC established the scholarship program in 1978. Since then, this effort has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education and training. CSOC considers this an investment in the future and believes that their membership helps to provide deserving students with an opportunity to make a

positive contribution to society.

Sheriff Dunlap explained that this is the 35th year that the County Sheriffs of Colorado has made such scholarships available. Scholarships will be awarded in more than 30 Colorado counties this year. Applications will be reviewed by a local citizens committee appointed by Sheriff Dunlap and a selection will be made on the basis of criteria established by CSOC. This criterion includes leadership, merit, character, involvement and career purpose.

Scholarship announcements have been mailed to all high school offices in the eligible counties and to all Colorado higher

education institutions. Applications are available online at www.csoc.org, or at the Montrose County Sheriff's office (1200 North Grand Avenue).

Any legal permanent resident of Montrose County enrolled in, or applying to, a vocational training program or institution of higher learning in the State of Colorado as a full- or part-time student is eligible to apply.

There are no restrictions as to the course of study or training which may be pursued, and no restrictions are placed upon applications by reason of race, creed, age, sex or national origin.

RE-1J SCHOOL DISTRICT SPELLING BEE AT OAK GROVE FEB. 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The 5th Annual Montrose & Olathe School District Spelling Bee will be held at Oak Grove Elementary School (62100 W. Oak Grove Road-Montrose) on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Schools throughout the District will send their top three spelling finalists to represent their schools. Pictured are the three finalists from Pomona Elementary School that will be competing in the District competition on 5th of February. Parents, students and community members are invited to the event.

Pictured left to right are: Jack Christian, Jake Green, Dakota Miller



The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

\$2 lift tickets at Kendall Mtn. in Silverton Feb. 7-9

Special to the Mirror

SILVERTON — Silverton's Kendall Mountain Ski Area is celebrating its 50th anniversary Feb. 7-9 with 1964 prices — \$2 lift tickets for adults and \$1 for kids. The town's Snowscape celebration of winter will also feature snow sculpting, live music, a snowmobile parade, a cardboard derby with a 1960s car theme, snow golf and fireworks.

The small ski area, operated by the town, opened in January 1964 on the slope of the 13,066-foot-tall peak overlooking Silver-

ton.

Town officials noted that with the 1964 prices, a family of four can ski all day for just \$6.

"It's worth the drive to Silverton," said town spokesperson Chelsea Stromberg. "It's a great place to bring the kids to learn how to ski."

The ski area features four runs, plus tree runs, small jumps, rails and other features, and is served by a 1,050-foot long chairlift. Silverton has received more than 93 inches of snow so far this year.

The tiny town high in the San Juan Mountains serves as a hub for a wide range of winter activities — snowmobiling, Nordic skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

Kendall Mountain Ski Area is open from 11-4 p.m. Fridays-Sundays.

More information is available at

www.skikendall.com or

www.silvertoncolorado.com.

Contact: Chelsea Stromberg, Town of Silverton (970) 387-5522 estromberg@silverton.co.us.

ROCK CLIMBERS FIND ADVENTURE, MORE IN DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — [Delta County in southwest Colorado](http://www.deltacountycolorado.com) is quickly becoming a rock climbing and mountaineering destination. Delta County sits near two separate mountain ranges — the West Elks and the Grand Mesa, one of the world's largest flat-topped mountains. Here is a peek at some of Delta County's preferred peaks that range from 5,000 feet to more than 11,000 feet.

Escalante Canyon is a rugged gorge that is one of the best climbing areas in Western Colorado. The sandstone canyon is located near the town of Delta at the north-eastern edge of the Colorado Plateau. There is climbing on both sides of the chasm, but most of the routes are on the south-facing side.

Needle Rock, a 7,874-foot peak near Crawford on the western edge of the West Elk Mountains, is another well-liked climb with a 694 ft. rise. Needle Rock, a remnant of a volcanic plug, is considered Delta County's most technically challenging summit.

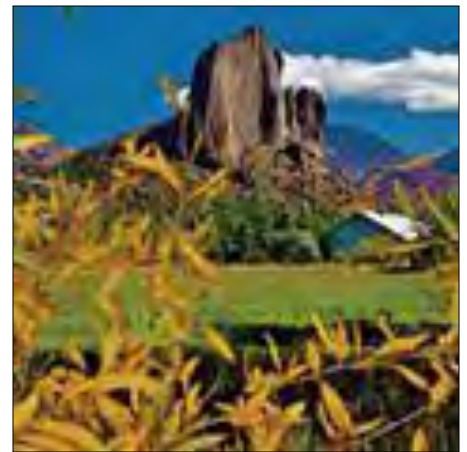
Mount Lamborn, one of the most visible peaks in the region, rises more than 5,500 feet, offering 360-degree views of the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre Plateau, La Sal Mountains and San Juan Mountains. It's a

long and strenuous climb to the summit that takes hikers through a diversity of landscapes and vegetation. Climbers can expect to see dense forests of junipers, pines, scrub oak, sagebrush, aspen, high meadows and grassy slopes.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, in nearby Montrose, is extremely deep and narrow and is a full-on adventure climbing area for expert climbers. There are 140 known Black Canyon climbs, and all of them are multi-pitch, free and traditional routes located in remote areas of the canyon. The majority of climbs take place at the North and South Chasm Walls, where the depth of the canyon measures more than 1,800 feet.

After a day scaling the summits of Delta County there is no better way to unwind than with a craft beer from Revolution Brewery in Paonia. The beer here is brewed from Mt. Lamborn spring water. Each batch is hand-stirred and brewed, with no filters, pasteurizing, chemical additives or finings. Belly up to the tasting room, located in a former church, at 325 Grand Avenue in Paonia, or find it on tap at CB's Tavern in Delta.

To learn more about visiting Delta County, log on to



Needle Rock is one of Delta County's favorite climbs. Courtesy photo.

www.deltacountycolorado.com.

About [Delta County](http://www.deltacountycolorado.com) (www.deltacountycolorado.com)

Delta County, Colo., is located on Colorado's western slope at the base of Grand Mesa, one of the largest flattop mountains in the world. An agricultural and heritage hotbed, this region is home to the communities of Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Eckert, Hotchkiss, Orchard City and Paonia.

**The League of Women Voters® of Montrose County,
serving Montrose and Delta counties,**

invites the community to attend

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**Thursday, February 13, Noon
Montrose Library Community Room**

Guest speaker:

**John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics, University of
Missouri, Columbia**

**Sustainable agriculture - what is it? what impact does it have on local economies and human
health? what is being done locally to educate and further sustainable agriculture practices? and
what are the negative impacts of factory farming on local economies**

Question and Answer period to follow.



**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active
participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences
public policy through education and advocacy.**

For more information about the topic go to www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org and click on *Calendar of Events*.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGION 10 TO HOST FACEBOOK MARKETING CLASS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Put your best face forward! Join the Region 10 SBRC for a Facebook marketing Class with Lauren Bell of Networks Unlimited, at the Region 10 Enterprise center on February 19 from Noon to 1 p.m! Bring your lunch, and learn to manage Facebook for your business, create strong content, and promote your site with posts and with Facebook ads. The class is just \$20—call Claudette at Region 10 970-249-2436 to reserve your spot!

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE -The Montrose County Republican Women are pleased to announce that scholarship applications are now available. Applicants must be female and graduating seniors of the Class of 2014 who are residents of Montrose County and citizens of the United States. Applicants must also be students in public, private or home schools in Montrose or Olathe, Colorado and planning to attend an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university or an accredited vocational – technical school the fall after graduation. The preferred majors for collegiate study are in the fields of political science, government, international studies, criminal justice or law enforcement. Other intended majors will be considered by the selection committee on a case by case basis. Applications are available through the Guidance Offices at Montrose, Olathe, Passage, Vista High Schools and Peak Academy beginning January 22 and must be returned by April 24, 2014. Home schooled students should call 970-249-6088 for application information.

PORTIONS OF 5600 ROAD CLOSED FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Montrose County Public Works will close 5600 Road between Hickory Road and Holly Road, starting Jan. 21, 2014 for culvert replacement. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes. For more information, please call Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.



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Region 10 also offers classes on Starting Your Own Business,
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REGION
Economic Assistance
& Planning **10**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMH Health Fair Scheduled for Saturday, March 1

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-- Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, March 1 from 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be February 5-8 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the **Montrose Pavilion** Main Ballroom. Early Blood Draws will also be available on February 3 at the American Legion Hall in **Olathe**, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on February 1 in **Ridgway**, at the 4-H Events Center from 7:00-

10:00am.

Appointments for ALL three locations must be made for the Early Blood Draws. Appointments can be made at www.MontroseHospital.com January 21st-29th or by calling 1-888-592-6255 January 21-23 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm.

The following blood tests will be offered at the Early Blood Draws and the Health Fair. The total chemistry profile evaluates kidney function, electrolytes, triglycerides, HDL and LDL cholesterol levels and over

15 components in the blood. The profile also includes iron, iron binding and TSH (Thyroid Screening). The cost of this test is \$40. The PSA blood test for prostate cancer, offered for men 40 and older, is \$30 and the CBC (complete blood count) blood test, is \$20 and the Hemoglobin A1c, which is an additional screening for diabetes, will cost \$35.00. We also have the Vitamin D screening for \$40. New tests this year include the Vitamin B-12 screening for \$35 and the Male Testosterone screening for \$40.

Telluride Ski Resort to Produce New Spring Event *Telluride's Mountain Town Get Down Debuts This March*

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE – Locals and visitors can look forward to a new event this March in Mountain Village. Telluride Ski Resort will debut Telluride's Mountain Town Get Down March 28-30. The event will feature new happenings including live music in the village along with old traditions like the Bikini Slalom and Luau at Gorrano Ranch. Telluride Ski Resort has created the event to support late season skier visitation, hotel occupancy and village vendor revenue.

"This is a great way to bring some late season vibrancy to the village core," says Brad Larsen, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Telluride Ski and Golf Re-

sort. "This type of event can bring energy and excitement to the resort, and an event like this can support late season visitation from both regional and destination visitors."

The event will kick-off with live music at Tomboy Tavern on Friday, March 28th. On Saturday, March 29th a free concert will take place in the Mountain Village core from 2-7pm featuring national touring reggae acts. Then, on Sunday, March 30th, the Mountain Town Get Down will wrap-up with the annual Bikini Slalom and Luau at Gorrano Ranch.

Telluride Ski Resort built support for the event through individual and group meet-

ings with Mountain Village businesses. Additionally, the Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association has agreed to support the event with \$7,500 to assist in bringing quality production and entertainment to the Saturday concert in the Village.

Telluride's Mountain Town Get Down events are free to the public. The ski resort is moving forward with operational and promotional planning. The Town of Mountain Village has not yet approved the necessary event permits, but the Town and the ski resort are working closely to complete the permits and ensure a safe and positive weekend.

CURECANTI MEDICAL SOCIETY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Curecanti Medical Society (CMS) proudly announces that four area students have been awarded scholarships in honor of the late Doctor George G. Balderston. The CMS Scholarship program originated over thirty years ago to assist students in pursuing a career in the medical field. The Montrose area physicians of the CMS fund the scholarships, which are awarded annually by the Curecanti Medical Society. Each student was awarded \$1,000 to further their educa-

tion.

Paige Markley is a 2008 graduate of Olathe High School who received her LPN training at Delta Montrose Technical College. She is enrolled in the Colorado Mesa University's LPN-RN Program. Paige also works at Valley Manor Care Center.

Elizabeth Gilmore is a registered nurse who is pursuing a Master's Degree in Nurse Anesthesia at Boston College. She has been a Registered Nurse since 2005 and was employed at Montrose Memorial Hospital until her temporary relocation to

Boston. Elizabeth plans to return to work on the Western Slope following graduation.

Bryan Felberg is a graduate of Ridgway High School attending Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Bryan is studying nursing and plans to return to the Montrose area after graduation.

Ryan Guillory was recently accepted into the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine. After graduating from Medical School he hopes to return to rural Colorado and practice.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FBO PROMOTES DESTINATION MONTROSE IN NEW ORLEANS



Black Canyon Jet Center, the fixed base operator at Montrose airport, sent three employees to showcase Destination Montrose at the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Schedulers and Dispatchers conference January 15-17 in New Orleans. Courtesy image.

Regional Airport as their Western Colorado base of operations. This is the eighth year Black Canyon Jet Center has participated in this conference. This year brought record breaking attendance numbers reaching close to 4000 people.

"Black Canyon Jet Center participates in two major international conferences a year," stated Katy Brink. "We especially like attending the Schedulers and Dispatcher conference because we gain an opportunity to put faces with many of the people we interact with throughout the year. It also gives us an opportunity to promote and introduce the Montrose area as a Destination and all the wonderful things our area has to offer to people who are unfamiliar with our area."

"Montrose has a lot to offer private aviators," said general manager Ken Watson. "We have a central location, competitive fuel prices and hangar space along with excellent amenities for pilots as well as their passengers. Our goal is to increase private business aviation traffic in Montrose, which not only provides a positive impact to our enterprise, but also provides additional customers for hotels, restaurants and retail businesses in our region, including Gunnison, Crested Butte and Telluride."

Black Canyon Jet Center manages fixed-base operations (FBO) for general aviation at the Montrose Regional Airport, providing world-class service to residents and visitors alike. For more information, call 970-249-7111 or visit www.blackcanyonjet.com.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Black Canyon Jet Center, the fixed base operator at Montrose airport sent three employees to showcase Destination Montrose at the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Schedulers and Dispatchers conference January 15-17 in New Orleans. This event is designed to benefit individuals whose responsibilities include scheduling and/dispatching busi-

ness aircraft, including designated schedulers and dispatchers as well as other influencers and decision makers—including chief pilots, directors and aviation department managers.

Katy Brink, director of marketing, and Erik Haveron, line service representative, staffed the exhibit in New Orleans, encouraging the audience of key decision makers to consider using the Montrose



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Food Safety Classes

Offered by Montrose County Environmental Health

This 3-hour class is for food service workers
& covers the basic concepts
For safe food handling.

2014 Montrose Classes

January 14th, 2014
February 11th, 2014
March 11th, 2014
April 8th, 2014
May 13th, 2014
June 10th, 2014
NO July class
August 12th, 2014
September 9th, 2014
October 21st, 2014
November 18th, 2014
NO December class

Pre-registration is required by calling 252.5000.

**Classes are held at a *new location*,
at Friendship Hall at the Montrose County Fairgrounds
at 1001 North 2nd Street
from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**The cost to attend is \$10 and a photo id is required.
Successful participants will receive a food handler's card.**

*For additional information
Or, to schedule a class at your location,
Call Environmental Health at 970-252-5000.*

MIRROR IMAGES...THE STYLISTS OF 1011!



Crystal and Nancy outside their new salon space.



At right, Nancy and Crystal in their new salon in the LoMo district.

Studio 1011 on South Townsend was one of Montrose's most popular salons before the building was sold in 2013, winning Best in the Valley honors from Daily Press readers nearly every year. Today, the spirit of Studio 1011 remains alive and well in two new Downtown salons—here are photos of Nancy Turley and Crystal Moore at their new salon in the Shear Beaute Building, where they share space with independent stylist Kari Hawks.



Nancy shares a laugh with longtime client Nancy Ball at Shear Beaute.



Above and below, Crystal prepares for clients.



IMAGES COURTESY CARA FANDEL PHOTOGRAPHY...INSPIRATION THROUGH IMAGING!

MIRROR IMAGES...THE STYLISTS OF 1011!



Inside Lynly's Scheibler's new Salon, Lynly, just off of Centennial Plaza Downtown.



Above, Lynly relaxes in the new Salon; left and below, working with client Kim Johnston.



IMAGES COURTESY CARA FANDEL PHOTOGRAPHY...INSPIRATION THROUGH IMAGING!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MHS DIVISION AND ATTENDANCE AWARDS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – On January 15, 2014 Montrose High School held the monthly Division Awards Ceremony. Nine students from Montrose High School were awarded the Division Award for January. Students are chosen for the Division Award because of their hard work and improvements in class. In addition, 27 students were recognized for having perfect attendance the first semester of the 2013-2014 School Year.

Above-Perfect Attendance Students Front row L-R: Gavin Dietel, Daniel Colon, David Villalobos, Gustavo Villalobos, Alexandria Hanley
Back row L-R: Olivia Davidson, Lindsey Davidson, Kyle Foster, Bo Burkdoll and Jeffrey Bullard.

Below-Division Awards Pictured-Front row L-R: Paul Weber, Chad Nichols, Clara Beshoar, Paris Garcia
Back row L-R: Ty Cary, Chase Darling, Cassie Chapman, Kyle Cox, Ashley Kindall.



Let's Make 2014 Better By Feeding Local Seniors Together.



The Senior CommUnity Meals program saw significant changes this past year. We still need your continued support to help our Western Slope seniors receive nutritious meals in the coming year. Six million seniors in America faced the threat of hunger, lacked food or feared starvation in 2007. * Donate now at www.voa.org/meals. Your \$100 donation will provide a month's worth of meals or a \$25 donation a week's worth of meals. Let's work together to make the new year a combined effort to support our area seniors with community dining site and home delivered meals.

* According to the Meals on Wheels Association



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Call: 970-835-8028

Toll Free: 866-416-6942

www.voa.org/meals

We invite you to join us for our annual event to raise money for special projects items, and events that will improve our residents' overall quality of life.

Give a Little Piece of Your Heart!



**Valley Manor Care Center's
ANNUAL GIVING EVENT**

Save the Date

**Friday, February 7th
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**



- Wine Toss
- Silent Auction
- Live Entertainment
- Dinner

Contact Linda Carpenter to RSVP
or for more information, 970-249-9634



The Valley Manor mission is to recognize each resident's individual uniqueness and to provide a more homelike environment with resident centered care. We strive to pay close attention to each resident's preference to his or her daily schedule by delivering caregiving flexibility, independence, and personal choice.



Valley Manor Care Center

**Contact Linda Carpenter to RSVP
or for more information, 970-249-9634**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Archaeological Society's Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL--Applications for the *Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society's Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship* in the amount of \$750 are currently available to high school, college or gradu-

ate students within the Montrose, Delta, Mesa, San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in archaeology or anthropology. Scholarships funds may be used for formal school study, field work or ongoing

professional work. Applications and information are available at www.montrosecf.com. Completed applications may be submitted electronically or mailed. Completed **applications must be received by April 1st**.

Frank and Esther Collins Memorial Scholarship

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Applications for the Frank and Esther Collins Memorial Scholarship are now available at the guidance or administrative offices of Montrose, Olathe, Passage Charter, Vista Charter and Peak High Schools. Frank and Esther Collins were members of the Montrose Community for many years. Esther was an elementary teacher at Menoken before she went to

work with social services helping with adoption of children. Frank worked as a body man at Hartman Brothers. With no children of their own, Frank and Esther's wish was to continue to help children by providing a scholarship for a graduating senior who planned to attend a four year baccalaureate program.

Applicants must be a graduating senior at one of the Montrose RE-1J schools, plan-

ning to attend an accredited 4 year college or university and must have maintained a solid academic standing.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic ability and skill and is renewable for 3 years after the initial award if renewal criteria are met. Questions may be directed to the guidance offices at MHS or OHS. Deadline date for applications is April 22.

Montrose Visual Arts Guild Scholarship

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The *Montrose Visual Arts Guild* is offering a scholarship of \$600.00 to a student in the Montrose or Olathe area. The applicant must intend to pursue an art-related degree leading to a career in the

arts or art education. All eligible art students are encouraged to participate in this process.

This award will be determined on a competitive basis and requires students to submit an application, portfolio and artist's

statement. Details and applications are available at the guidance or administrative offices of Montrose, Olathe, Passage Charter, Peak Academy and Vista Charter High Schools. The application deadline is March 30.

SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN RUNNERS HOST WINTER RIM ROMP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The San Juan Mountain Runners will be hosting the Winter Rim Romp, the first event of the 2014 Black Canyon Race Series on Feb. 8th at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

The race benefits Montrose Community Foundation and Mended Little Hearts of Western Colorado, assisting families affected by congenital heart defects emotionally and financially. Congenital Heart Defects affect 1:100 children.

Details: visit www.runningguru.com/event/rimromp2014 or find event details under Winter Rim Romp on Facebook

16K/10M Freestyle cross country ski race (awards for classic and skate)

8K/5M snowshoe race

8K/5M non-competitive Freestyle cross country ski

These three events require race registration (\$20 until February 6th, then \$25 race day, register at www.runningguru.com/event/rimromp2014). No park entrance fees. Race Start 10am. Fleece hats for all registered racers, awards for event/ski style, age, and gender winners. Prizes, food and beer at the after-party sponsored by Horsefly Brewing Company.

The Rim Romp also presents a free, fun, ranger led snowshoe hike for all ages and

abilities to enjoy the beauty and wildlife of the National Park in winter. Hike leaves between 10-10:30 from the Visitor's Center.

No registration, snowshoes provided by the National Park Service (limited number), and no Park entrance fees.

This is an amazing opportunity to race on a challenging ski and snowshoe course along the rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison on groomed track with amazing views and lots of wildlife along the route.

The race is self-supported, but cookies and hot drinks will be available at the start/finish.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

LISTENING TO CONSTITUENTS

I am working my bills through committees and the Senate floor now. The final Senate vote on the bill allowing smaller population counties to choose to elect its commissioners by district vote only passed unanimously with bipartisan cosponsors.

The reaction to that bill in my district was as varied as it can get. The editorial board of the Durango Herald newspaper strongly opposed the bill, calling it a "prescription for bad government and partisanship," while the Montrose Daily Press supported it, finding it to be a common sense option expanding voter choice and power.

Constituent response has also registered the full range, with one individual asserting that I was pandering to right-wing extremists, while at the same time, another constituent claimed I was giving away the store to a complete Democratic takeover.

My thought is this: when constituents from half of my counties independently ask for something that will encourage citizen engagement, I listen closely and determine whether they have a position that I can agree with. Given my bill sponsorship, clearly I feel that they do.

The stories I heard from many, across party lines, who live in the less populated

areas of my rural counties, are compelling. A constituent, with deep roots going back a century in one of the counties, shared with me his bipartisan family's sense that their concerns and voice do not matter in local elections. They've given up on voting because votes from the population center dictate the results of any election affecting the area. The name of that particular county is not nearly as important as the sense of disengagement that comes from the current county election method.

Similar accounts come from across my district, with some constituents uncomfortable with going public in their support of the bill because partisan reaction from neighbors can be fierce and unpleasant. That last part alone helps fuel my motivation to carry this bill as that's not healthy in any form of government.

In the work that I have done in emerging democracies in Africa, I always stress the importance of citizens having the opportunity to access their elected representatives and to feel heard in a meaningful way. This bill offers county residents the opportunity to discuss and possibly vote on whether they want to change how they elect their commissioners. Given the population distribution numbers, those seeking the change will have their work cut out

for them, but giving them that option seems to me only fair and good governance.

Hearing different opinions of legislative efforts, including my bills, is part of my job. I appreciate that input, even if I can't satisfy everyone. That's where using my judgment comes in to the equation and voters get to decide at election time how I'm doing in representing them and the district.

Finally, my thanks to Mark Esper, of Silverton, for alerting me to the serious economic challenges accompanying the Red Mountain pass closure, and to Anne Klein, of Durango's tourism office, for jumping in with both feet to help.

CDOT and its contractors deserve appreciation for the speedy, difficult, and risky work being done, leading to a partial re-opening of one lane, with further improvements to come as soon as possible. Don't forget to enjoy Silverton and Ouray soon and please take your wallets with you!

Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator

Legislative Contact Information:

200 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver CO 80203
Denver Capitol office phone:

[\(303\)866-4884](tel:(303)866-4884)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIBBON CUTTING



MEDC

The Montrose Chamber of Commerce Staff & Redcoats helped the Montrose Economic Development Corporation Staff and Board Members celebrate MEDC's new office at 1601 Oxbow, Suite 360B with a ribbon cutting.

THANKS FOR
READING THE
MONTROSE MIRROR!
CALL 970-275-5791
FOR AD RATES AND
INFORMATION!

HONORABLE MENTION

To Erica Lewis Kennedy and Molly Lewis, for taking time to come before City Council last month and prevent the blanket re-zoning of an already impacted Downtown neighborhood....

To young entrepreneurs Juliet Carr, Kendra Morrow and Krista Montalvo, for the Three Graces Women's retreats they have been holding. Creating an empowering female experience in an appealing and comfortable space—with excellent food—appears to be a recipe for success...

...and to Winifred Tappan, 88, for living life to the fullest, and standing up for seniors. We look forward to your next book Wini!



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\$15 per stuffed animal dog

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CASA RAY OF HOPE EVENT SET FOR APRIL 12

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL--CASA of the 7th Judicial District (Court Appointed Special Advocates - a.k.a. CASA) will host their "Ray of Hope Annual Benefit" on Saturday, April 12th at the Montrose Pavilion from 6 -9pm. CASA holds its annual fund raising benefit during National Child Abuse Awareness month to reinforce the importance of their services. The 7th Judicial District is comprised of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties.

This year's Ray of Hope benefit will focus on "The Child." The evening's activities will help take us back to when we were children and at the same time remind us that the many children that CASA serves never get to be child-like. Fund-raising highlights will include mini-bike races (non-motorized), Monkey Shot and other games, a "Dessert Dash", live auction, and drawings for great items collected throughout the 7th Judicial District including overnight get-a-ways and gasoline cards. The Dessert Dash will feature whimsical spe-

cialty desserts created by restaurants, bakeries and pastry chefs throughout the 7th Judicial District. Each table selects its own "dasher" to choose a dessert. The table with the highest bid has the first chance to choose a dessert with the second highest bid being called seconds later, and so on. Special collector "Dessert Dash Shoes" are available for purchase from CASA if ordered by March 15th.

CASA is seeking sponsors for this event. Sponsorship packages are available at levels to meet a variety of budgets. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$550 for a reserved "Table of 10 Friends." The event has limited seating and has sold out in all prior years as attendees come from throughout the 7th Judicial District. To sponsor, attend, volunteer or donate to this event, call CASA at (970)249-0337.

CASA serves abused and neglected kids from throughout the 7th Judicial District who have been removed from their homes and find themselves in the courts and child welfare system through no fault of their own. Karen Tuttle, CASA Executive Di-

rector, reminds us that "it is vital that our communities come together and take care of our own, most vulnerable population - our children. We must also support and celebrate the success of our own CASA program."

CASA is affiliated with the National CASA Association and CASA in Colorado. CASA's mission is to "help break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, and to advocate for safe, permanent, nurturing home for children, utilizing highly trained and dedicated volunteers."

CASA volunteers undergo extensive training prior to working with any children. CASA volunteers are given direction from the presiding judge to act as a child's advocate. They provide formalized observations and written recommendations to the court to assist in the complex decision-making process directly affecting the child. Sadly, the need for CASA volunteers is growing each year. For more information about CASA, becoming a CASA volunteer, or to support the CASA program call 970-249-0337.

SPRING FEVER?

DELTA COUNTY'S ONLY HOME, GARDEN & RECREATION SHOW!

BILL HEDDLES REC CENTER

March 28—9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

March 29—9 A.M. to 3 P.M.



70+ vendors, giveaways and demonstrations! Vendor applications available at www.DeltaColorado.org or by calling 970-874-8616.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA IS TOP CO-OP IN STATE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY NET METERING

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY--In a recent survey of Colorado's cooperatives San Miguel Power topped the list for net metering in the state. SMPA's 156 net metered accounts amount to 1.11% of the co-op's total number of meters. What's this mean? A little more than 1% of SMPA's members are generating their own renewable energy.

"The results of this survey showcase what we've known our members have been doing for years. There is a lot of passion for self-generation and net metering in our area. We've been able to support our members' efforts through our renewable energy rebate programs," said SMPA General Manager Kevin Ritter.

While SMPA has helped bring their members' net metered systems to fruition through rebates, totaling more than \$730,000 since 2008, the members have done their fair share of the work too. To date, SMPA members have invested approximately \$5.2 million from their own pockets in their efforts to install local renewable energy systems. In addition to SMPA's rebates, many members also received federal tax credits for their installa-

tions.

What is net metering? SMPA members who install renewable energy systems on their homes or business, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, receive a special meter called a net meter. Unlike standard electric meters which simply measure the amount of electricity consumed at a given location, net meters measure two different things:

1. The amount of energy a member sends back onto SMPA's power lines if their system is producing more energy than is being consumed on site.
2. The amount of energy a member is using off of SMPA's power lines, if their system is not producing enough energy to cover the energy needs on site.

SMPA has been installing net meters in their service territory since 1999. Since then, they've also been offering renewable energy rebates which make it more affordable for their members to install solar PV and other systems on their home or business. The co-op will again offer renewable rebates in 2014. They are listed below.
Solar PV* Residential: \$0.75/watt up to 3kW or \$2,250

Solar PV* Commercial: \$0.75/watt up to 10kW or \$7,500

Small Wind Residential: \$0.75/watt up to 3kW or \$2,250

Solar Domestic Hot Water: \$1,500 per installation

**Rebate also applies to purchases in the SMPA Community Solar Array.*

SMPA members interested in installing a renewable energy system and receiving a rebate are encouraged to work with an installer who is a member of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP). A list of certified installers can be found online at <http://www.nabcep.org/installer-locator>. Members interested in participating in the SMPA Community Solar Array can work directly with the Clean Energy Collective to reserve their rebate. SMPA requires a \$250 deposit on all renewable energy rebate reservations. For more information about SMPA's renewable energy rebates visit www.smpa.com/Service/renewablerebates.cfm or contact SMPA Energy Services Technician Wiley Freeman at wiley@smpa.com or (970) 626-5549 x231.

Valerie Meyers' Weekly Monday



REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

from the Road

Valerie Meyers, Realtor, GRI
Coldwell Banker Bailey & Co.
2023 S. Townsend Ave. • Montrose, CO 81401
970-209-1378 Cell • 970-257-6748 Direct

*Click here to catch Valerie's weekly Monday
Real Estate Market Report video...from the road!*

On the Western Slope. Across the Nation.

We succeed when we help change the lives of older adults and families in our communities.



Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization who since 1896, has been dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. On the Western Slope of Colorado, we offer independent senior and family housing; senior care services, including site-based and home delivery meals programs; a PACE program, including senior day centers, in-home, and clinic care; home health care management; and assisted living, long-term, memory, transitional and respite care.

For more information, visit www.voahealthservices.org



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- Horizons Health Care & Retirement Community • Senior CommUnity Meals
- Senior CommUnity Care PACE • Home Health of Western Colorado

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SIX POINTS RECEIVES GRANTS TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS *FORMER RUSSELL STOVER BUILDING SIDING FINDS NEW LIFE*

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON—Six Points Evaluation and Training, Inc. recently received grant awards from several Colorado foundations to support the construction of its new training facility and Thrift Store, as well as in support of its programming for its developmentally disabled clients. The Adolph Coors Foundation, Boettcher Foundation, El Pomar Foundation and Gates Family Foundations have all either awarded or pledged their support totaling \$130,000 for construction. Anschutz Family Foundation also awarded Six Points \$5,000 for operations.

“All of us at Six Points are so honored and inspired to have received this support from such distinguished foundations here in our state,” said Six Points Executive Director Sue Uerling. “Thanks to this assistance at such a crucial time in our capital campaign and fiscal year, we are confident we will be able to reach our financial goals successfully.”

Uerling explained that the funding pledged from the Adolph Coors Foundation, Boettcher Foundation and Gates Family Foundation for the facility construction



The new Six Points building makes use of the old Russell Stover Building siding. Courtesy image.

will be awarded as “challenge” grants meaning that Six Points must raise the remaining monies needed to complete their Capital Campaign goal of \$1.44 million before these foundations will release their grant payments.

“With the funding that has been pledged

by these Foundations, Six Points has less than \$200,000 to complete our goals and I feel very hopeful that our neighbors in this valley really want to see this project completed and will step up to support our campaign financially,” said Uerling, “as the new facility will be such a benefit for our clients and the entire county.”

Uerling reported that the new facility is nearly completely enclosed for the winter with the steel beams and siding from the former Russell Stover Candy Store of Montrose fully erected and new windows and a new roof installed. The next phase of construction will be to pour the remaining slab and begin construction on the interior, “hopefully with donated services and supplies that also will count towards the challenge grant awards.”

Six Points provides education, training, assistance and support to developmentally disabled adults and their families in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties. For more information about services or the Six Points Capital Campaign to complete construction of its new facility, please call Six Points at 970-641-3081.



The South side of the Six Points building with the Russell Stover siding. Courtesy image.



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BREAKFAST & LUNCH

SHOP MONTROSE FOR VALENTINE'S!

2014 SHOPPING GUIDE

AROUND THE CORNER ART GALLERY



Around the Corner Art Gallery is a Valentine's destination for art lovers.

MONTROSE-- Show the love this Valentine's Day with the gift of fine art! It's February, and Around the Corner Art Gallery, 447 East Main Street in Montrose,

welcomes five new artists to the Gallery, and a host of new opportunities to indulge in the arts. Catch our juried show, "Feathers and Fur," featuring more than 20 artists displaying their work depicting feathers and fur, or come in to enjoy pastels by Paul Gray, jewelry by Kristie MacGregor, Anette Akselsen and Dianne Erickson, and crystalline pottery by Amy Marlowe.

From fine oil paintings and watercolors to inspired photography, to works in bronze and beautiful ceramics and even one-of-a-kind jewelry, there is something here for all price ranges, and all tastes.

Those whose works are represented include revered Western Colorado talents, and rising stars.

The Browns opened the Gallery six years ago, after the building in which it is located was tastefully remodeled by local entre-

preneur Ralph Walchle, who still owns the space. Over the years, Around the Corner Art Gallery has become a community gathering place, with exciting shows and events that draw the community Downtown to appreciate the best that the local arts community has to offer. Visit the [web site](#) to browse the catalog of artists, and to find out about upcoming shows and receptions. Challenge yourself to appreciate something new, or cherish old favorites—it's up to you...this is your local gallery!

Perhaps you will be inspired to take a class, and discover the artist within. Check out the latest courses [here](#). Around the Corner Gallery can be reached at 970-249-4243. Hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, until 8 on Thursdays, and from 11 to 4 on Sundays throughout the season.

TIFFANY, ETC.

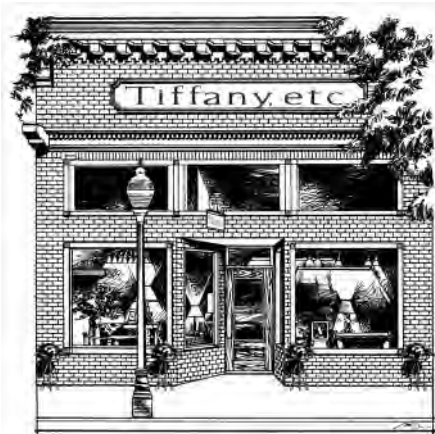
MONTROSE--Go ahead—find a little something for yourself when you stop by Tiffany Etc. in the New Year! Like the perfect bedroom set, or that gorgeous yet comfortable couch you have had your heart set on for months!

Tiffany Store Manager Lorna Santonastaso and Owner Glee Westcott shop throughout the year for the beautiful, useful, and high-quality items that make this Montrose boutique a regional shopping destination. Over the past 30 years, Tiffany owner Glee Westcott has established a reputation for superb customer service and an array of merchandise that evokes a holiday experience year-round. From special treats like the sought-after Poppa's Corn for the holiday season (Tiffany Etc. has been the main retail outlet for this locally-made product for 26 years), to home décor and accessories, candles of all shapes and

sizes, jewelry, unique apparel, artwork and even furniture, the store is a treasure chest packed with colorful, high-quality merchandise that captures the essence of Western Colorado.

"We have gift items for everyone, and we sell custom-design furniture, with fabric chosen by our clients or with interior design help from Lorna or me," Westcott said. "We have many different styles, from contemporary to lodge and Western-style to traditional. We also have accent pieces to complement any style."

Other fun, seasonal items include elk and deer "poop" candies, and a fabulous variety of stocking stuffers for all ages. Our email catalogue keeps our customer up to date on new merchandise and store events. It always pays to stop by Tiffany Etc. on Mix-n-Match Sundays for Glee's weekly special event. Tiffany Etc. is located at 439



Tiffany Etc.. Has been a year-round shopping destination for more than 30 years.

East Main Street in Montrose, and is open seven days a week. They can be reached at 970-249-7877.



SHOP MONTROSE FOR VALENTINE'S!

2014 SHOPPING GUIDE

A+Y DESIGN GALLERY



MONTROSE--Yes, this is an art gallery, with exciting and vivid pieces by more than 20 local artists. It is also a place where you can relax, refresh and restore your soul over fresh coffee while shopping or just hanging out with friends. From the

new seating area, to the great selection of gifts in all price ranges, Adam and Yesenia Duncan's A+Y Gallery is your Downtown destination—and it's fine to bring the kids along! Sip a delicious affogato during the winter months (hot, fresh coffee infused with gelato), and admire Adam's astonishing custom furniture designs. Check out the Big Colorado Love items if you can—this straight-from-Telluride specialty line flies off the shelves almost as soon as it arrives.

"Everything here is hand-crafted, and we really believe in supporting local artists," Yesenia Duncan said.

"We also welcome small gatherings—just give us a call to schedule your next meeting here. And be sure to order our Gelato

sliders for your next holiday gathering or office party!"

The constantly evolving collection encompasses everything from small, exquisite jewelry items to large, breathtaking sculpture, so it's a breeze to find gifts to fit every taste and budget.

When you shop at A+Y Gallery, you are not only supporting a small family business in Montrose, and A+Y Gallery is also a drop-off point for donations to the American Red Cross typhoon relief effort. "By shopping small, you can make a big difference!" Yesenia Duncan said. A+Y Gallery is located at 513 East Main Street, and can be reached at 970-240-7914.

Hours are Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Delta County Living

Your Online Guide for Activities,
Adventure, and Living In
Delta County, Colorado

www.deltacountyliving.com

deltacountyliving@gmail.com



ARTS AND CULTURE

TELLURIDE IGNITES WITH FIRST FIRE FEST IN 2015

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE--Two local Telluride residents are orchestrating a new winter festival to bring light, warmth and fiery art to Telluride in 2015.

The Telluride Fire Festival scheduled for Jan. 8-11, 2015, aims to create an interactive fire art experience on Telluride's Main Street and the pedestrian plazas of Mountain Village. Multi-storied, fire emitting "art cars," burn barrels and other larger-than-life, animated, fiery art installations will line public spaces and fire artists and dancers will offer spontaneous performances in the streets.

The festival is the creation of Telluride residents Erin Ries and Chris Myers and will be a collaborative effort with Telluride Arts, the Ah Haa School for the Arts, and Deep Creek Experimental. The project is made possible in part through the Telluride Arts District Umbrella program. "Fire is at the very core of human existence: it transformed our ability to survive," says co-founder Chris Myers. "Today, a Millennia later, it still is critically important to our survival and fascinates most everyone. And, over the last two decades,

that fascination has lead its controlled handling to become an art form."

The festival will begin Thursday, January 8 with an Artwalk that includes galleries showcasing all types of fire art. The next day, when darkness falls, Main Street in Town and the Mountain Village Plaza will be the centers of the action. Saturday will feature workshops on fire performing and art creation. The workshops will focus on reusing found and recycled materials.

"Telluride has a thriving arts community, and we want to offer a new platform that will help amplify this dynamic art form," says Erin Ries, Event Director.

The Festival appeals to a growing national audience for this artistry and brings both regional and nationally recognized fire artists to Telluride.

Year-to-date, artists include mural artist and kinetic sculptor Duane Flatmo, metal sculptor Jamie Vaida, fire performers Fractal Tribe, and local architect/metal artist Anton Viditz-Ward.

Additional artists and performers to be announced upon final selection of submissions.

The festival will also be integrated com-

munity-wide with local establishments offering everything from fire-themed art exhibits at local galleries, flaming food on the weekend's menus and fire-themed book signings—for this weekend, fire will be the talk of the town.

Ries has extensive experience with events and festivals in Telluride, and is no stranger to fire: for three years she co-directed the Telluride Wine Festival (2004-2006) and served Telluride as a volunteer firefighter. Myers, the owner of enLIGHT-en—a lighting design firm, is a believer in the power of fire, whether to illuminate, warm us, transform our food, or simply entrance.

"Fire is nature's television," Myers says. "It is captivating, and has been ever since man first harnessed its power for survival. It is visual...visceral...and as curious creatures, people are drawn to fire."

For more information about the Telluride Fire Festival (a net-zero carbon event) or to become a sponsor, volunteer, teach fire dancing or a welding workshop, submit a fire installation for consideration, please go to www.telluridefirefestival.com, or email erin@telluridefirefestival.com.



EAGLE SCOUT GATHERING PLANNED

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL--The Western Colorado Council of the Boy Scouts of America would like to invite anyone who has earned the Eagle Scout Award to attend our first "Gathering of Eagles."

The event will take place on Saturday Feb. 8th from 10 AM to 11 AM at The Homestead in Montrose on Pavilion Drive. Light refreshments will be served, and admission is free.

The program will include updates in scouting in Western Colorado and a guest speaker.

Regardless of when you earned your Eagle or Silver award, come and join us for our first "Gathering of Eagles."

ARTS AND CULTURE

TALKING GOURDS FEATURES POETS FROM PAONIA



Sarah Gilman.
Courtesy photo.

McGarry and Sarah Gilman. They'll be our featured readers for February's First Tuesday at Arroyo's at 6 p.m

Sarah Gilman is a semi-lapsed artist and secret poet turned environmental journalist and essayist. When she's not playing in the mountains and desert with her dog, she can be found scribbling in a battered notebook or hunched vulture-like over her computer at *High Country News*, a Paonia-based

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club welcomes a trio of poets from the North Folk Valley community of Paonia -- Tara Miller, Jane

magazine about the American West where she has served as associate editor since 2008.

Jane McGarry still has a lot to learn about writing poems. She also teaches literature classes in an alternative school in Paonia, sells collectible books on the Internet, and teaches downhill and cross country skiing to kids and adults."

Tara Miller has been writing poetry since she was a child. She taught high school writing and literature in the '70s after graduating from the University of Oregon, but soon turned her pottery hobby into a full time profession. Her work is published in numerous editions of the Delta County *Write On! Anthology*, plus an occasional magazine. She promotes solar cooking in Western Colorado and on Taquile Island, Lake Titicaca, Peru, where she is a godmother and ceremonial parent. She's the author of two chapbooks from

Intitaquile Press -- *Musical Seashell Poems* (1976) and *Anything is Possible* (2001/2005).

After announcements and performances, we'll have a short break and then pass the gourd to give those club members and attendees a chance to read poems from the monthly theme -- pieces of their own or the work of a favorite other. . And in honor of Valentine's Day this month, the theme for the open gourd circle will be Sex .

Talking Gourds Poetry Club is a joint venture of the Telluride Institute, Wilkinson Library, Between the Covers Bookstore, Telluride Arts and San Miguel County poets. Members meet monthly, on first Tuesday evenings, at Arroyo Fine Art Gallery & Wine Bar at 220 E. Colorado Ave. (next door to Telluride Hardware and the Masonic Hall), beginning at 6 p.m. in Telluride, Colorado. Call 970-729-0220 for more info.

BLACK CANYON BARBERSHOP CHORUS INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR 2014



New officers for are as follows: Front row left to right: Rex Pierson –Treasurer, Chuck Frush – Secretary, John Taylor – President, Larry Cooper – Program VP, MaryAnn Rathburn – Director. Back Row, also left to right: David Stannard – Music VP, Dennis Olmstead, Public Relations VP, Tim Davis – Member at Large, Larry Wilkinson – Immediate Past President, Bill Sutton – Communications VP, Tom Chamberlain – Director Emeritus and Chapter Historian, Carol Morrell – Administrative Officer, Don Barnett – Economic Development VP, Bob Brethouwer – Sergeant at Arms, and John Reick – keeper of CARA records. Information on the Chorus at www.blackcanyonchorus.org

ARTS AND CULTURE

CHOCOLATE LOVERS CELEBRATE FIRST FRIDAY STROLL DOWNTOWN FEB. 7

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Don't miss the chance to indulge in a night of chocolate, art and romantic Valentine specials!

There will be a Valentine Block Party on the 400 block of Main St.

Around the Corner Art Gallery, Tiffany, etc., Pollux and Dahlia Floral will be giving discounts and/or free gifts during the Stroll. Also, register at any of these four businesses for a free dinner for 2 at the Camp Robber, and a bouquet of flowers from Dahlia's. When you make a purchase, you'll receive an envelope for another store for a free gift or discount. **Around the Corner Art Gallery** is hosting a juried show with more than 20 artists displaying their work depicting "Feathers and Fur". It will spotlight man's best friends, 4 legged, winged, wild and domestic animals. But not all are animals. You'll be surprised at the art entries. Opening Reception is Friday, February 7th, 5:30-8pm. Wine, lots of chocolate delicacies and appetizers will be served.

The Simpson Gallery is debuting several New Black Canyon paintings in both oil and watercolor. Mike Simpson has painted

for the Black Canyon National Park for a number of years now. The Black Canyon can be especially challenging to paint because of the complex lighting which is different from morning to evening. Stop by to see his new series of paintings.

Chocolate Lovers Stroll at Nina Suzanne's 5:30 to 7:00

Featuring Nona Mayberry CPA sampling and selling delicious dark chocolate by Xocai, and Katrina Brown will be selling her beautiful purses made from recycled materials.

A+Y Design Gallery will be having live music with Karen Mercer and Bill Wilson

Chocolate Cherry Wine

Cacao infused Coffee sampling-Patent

Pending Cafecolate-created right here in Montrose

Featuring Chocolate flavored Gelatos
Montrose Visual Arts Guild Artist Reception and Artist Demonstrations by Guild Members

Also featuring great Valentines gifts by local artists and craftsmen and women.

First Friday Art Stroll, and romance is in the air at Art@33. With Valentines

Day the next week, don't miss the opportunity to win a romantic one-night stay at the luxurious Painted Sky home on the Bridges Golf course and a complimentary dinner for two at Remington's restaurant. Make this Valentines' Day one to remember. Stop by Art @ 33 and register to win.... In addition to this fantastic opportunity to win a great Valentines' day treat we will have a great selection of chocolate for your sweet tooth to start out the Valentine holiday.

Last but not least we have another special treat for the intrepid art walker. Shane Brown will be here to display his excellent portfolio of detailed and well-defined drawings. He has not exhibited in the area before so you will be the first to see the great talent of this artist, a real special treat you will really enjoy.

Black Canyon artists will have another excellent display of the members work which really covers a wide and beautiful range of art work from water colors, drawings and oils.

Don't let the wintery cold keep you in, come out and stroll and enjoy the work of our great art community!!

EILEN JEWELL PLAYS TURN OF THE CENTURY MARCH 21



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Eilen Jewell is the queen of the minor key. Sad songs are her wealth and finery. But beware, savvy observer. Do not confuse the singer and her songs. Eilen's fans have marveled at her warmth, unique wit, and onstage hu-

mor. Her song writing is a blend of influences from early blues, rockabilly and surf-noir, to 1960s era rock and roll. Her repertoire includes everything from up-tempo rockers that swing, to stunning, lyrically poetic ballads. The Los Angeles Daily News wrote, "Sometimes as darkly dam-

aged as Lucinda Williams, at others as defiant and teasing as prime Peggy Lee and always authentically Americana in the Gillian Welch tradition.... She's mighty good." Eilen and her band have been living on the road, from North America to Western Europe, New Zealand and Australia, and have shared the stage with Lucinda Williams, Mavis Staples, George Jones, Emmylou Harris, Blind Boys of Alabama, Chris Smither, and Junior Brown. Hollywood stars (Tom Hanks in Entertainment Weekly) to heads of state (British Prime Minister David Cameron in Britain's Telegraph) have praised Eilen's music. Eilen Jewell and her band play Friday, March 21, at Turn of the Century Saloon 8PM. Emma Cooper opens. tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/555665> More info call 970.275.4183.

ARTS AND CULTURE

RODEO AND JULIET TO PERFORM VALENTINE'S CONCERT IN RIDGWAY

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY--American Roots husband and wife singing duo Rodeo and Juliet (Chris and Jan Harris) are bringing back some love and musical recipes to Ouray County for a Valentine's evening concert, sponsored by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild at the 4 H Event Center in Ridgway.

After working in all aspects of the Music Industry the last 35 years with all kinds of Artists such as Dolly Parton, Amy Grant, Stevie Ray Vaughn and even The Chipmunks, they worked up some love songs and hit the road.

Then they fell head over heels with Ouray County and spent much of the last 4 years singing together and enjoying this beautiful part of Colorado. Now they can't wait to see all their friends from Ridgway, Ouray, Montrose, Telluride & Silverton again after spending much of last year back in Nashville writing and recording.

Their 100 love songs and are celebrating staying together through "the good, the bad and the ugly" with a self-titled debut CD

full of their timeless music. With original songs, "The Honey Do List," "All the Men in my Life," and "Sit and Watch the Sun Go Down," they draw on stories of the ups and downs of life's circumstance as well as trying to keep the love light burning bright.

This year they're bringing some extra southern soul food from Tennessee with them. Juliet (Jan) says, "We are so excited to bring one of our songwriting partners and soulful friends, who is one of the most gifted musicians and songwriters of our time. with us to the Western Slope."

His name is Phil Madeira and he's been spending much of the last four years on the road playing guitar, B3, harmonica and accordion with Emmylou Harris". Chris adds, "Somehow, Phil can play the blues, and make ya' feel good". He's had songs recorded by Alison Krauss, Toby Keith, Ricky Skaggs, Bruce Hornsby, Garth Brooks, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Shawn Mullins & The North Mississippi Allstars. You've heard him play on recordings by Buddy Miller, The Neville Brothers, Mavis



American Roots husband and wife singing duo Rodeo and Juliet, Chris and Jan Harris. Courtesy photo.

Staples, Vanessa Williams, Emmylou Harris, Solomon Burke, and Keb' Mo'. "We're gonna' play some old, some new, some sweets and some blues for Valentine's Day this year and can't wait to see you all Friday night the 14th at the 4H Event Center in Ridgway." This event is sponsored by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild.

Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.ocpag.org or they will be sold at the door.

SEND YOUR SWEETHEART A SINGING VALENTINE!



*All proceeds benefit
Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus, a
non-profit organization.*

*Surprise that special someone at home, at the office
or in a restaurant by having two love songs sung by
a men's quartet...*

in Montrose, Delta, Cedaredge and Ridgway!

*Call Dennis at 970-596-3196 to reserve your singing
Valentine on Friday, Feb. 14 2014...*

\$40 Singing Valentine with real red rose;

\$50 Singing Valentine for Office or Groups!

Call about having us sing in your restaurant!

MIRROR IMAGES



Western Slope water advocate Marc Catlin shares information on the impending water crisis. See Liesl's story on page 13. Photo by Clay Greathouse.



Clay Greathouse snapped this gorgeous photo of winter returning to Telluride over the weekend...powder lovers take note! Below, Clay also caught up with Telluride Angler and snapped this photo at the popular Black Canyon Outdoor Expo at Friendship Hall Feb. 1-2.



It was Girls' Night Out at MAX Archery! Pictured is Welcome Home Montrose/Warrior Resource Center Executive Director Emily Smith. Also attending were Welcome Home Montrose Founder & CEO Melanie Kline; Air Force Spouse & Welcome Home Montrose Volunteer Mysti Miller, and Coldwell Banker Realtor Autumn Barrett.



Barbershopper of the Year Presented Bill Sutton, (left), presents Larry Wikinson, outgoing Black Canyon Barber-shop Chorus President, the 2013 "Barbershopper of the Year Award" recognizing his five years of service as President of the organization. For information on the Black Canyon Chorus please visit www.blackcanyonchorus.org. Courtesy image.

THREE GRACES WOMEN'S EVENT

Mission: Creating a welcoming place where women of all walks of life find their unique, sacred & divine self through enrichment programs. Uniting women on their path of wisdom, love, understanding, oneness, peace & reflection.

MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS WORKSHOP **FEB 8, 2014 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

CONNECTING THROUGH CREATIVE MOVEMENT WITH
KATE FLORIAN, DANCE AROUND

CELEBRATING AND EMBRACING OUR BOND WITH
THE THREE GRACES

\$20 PER PERSON REG. BY FEB. 5
HOSTED AT DANCE AROUND STUDIO
AGES 7 & UP, MULTI-GENERATIONS ENCOURAGED

UPCOMING EVENTS - 3/15/14 BALANCE

OPINION/EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNITY CANNOT AFFORD MEASURE B

Dear Editor:

There are a few individuals in our community who have not had to deal with the current recession (which has not ended in Montrose) as they have not had any cuts in compensation or benefits.

It is this small group of people who are driving the issue of building a new recreation center, as they can afford it and will use it.

The real facts are way too many of the residents of Montrose are feeling crushed by the reduction of their wages and benefits and the increase in their expenses. For this group, the cost of food, clothing, health care, utilities, the cost of operating a vehicle and taxes have all increased substantially the past five years.

The priority for this group at this time is to provide their family with three meals a day and a roof over their heads.

The current Board of Directors of the Montrose Recreation District apparently has lost sight of the mission of the District and why the District was formed. That board apparently has no feelings for those taxpayers in Montrose who cannot afford any additional taxes or the fees to use the current facilities.

Do the supporters of this expensive facility really believe that this group of residents who are being crushed will vote to increase their taxes?

Curtis Robinson

BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 14-084

Dear Editor:

A great big thank you to our State Senator Ellen Roberts and State Representative Don Coram for meeting with us, listening to our concerns and sponsoring Senate Bill 14-084. This bill, if passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, will give the Citizens of Montrose County the ability to change the way you elect Montrose County Commissioners. Currently, county commissioners are voted on by all voters in the county (at large). As a result, some commissioners do not receive a majority of the vote from the district they represent. This has resulted in some cases to unequal or under representation by county commissioners. Senate Bill 14-084 will give the voters of Montrose County an opportunity to change the way they elect their commissioners (from voting at-large to district voting). To make this change, the voters could ask the commissioners to place this question on the ballot for the next General Election or the voters could go through the petition process and present it to the County's Clerk and Recorder to be placed on the ballot. Once on the ballot, the voters in Montrose County can either approve it or reject it.

We have already received bi-partisan support (4 to 1 vote in favor) from the Senate Committee—"State, Veterans, and Military Affairs" and it has passed the second reading. Senator Roberts states bi-partisan support is being shown on the Senate floor and now we need your help! This bill will soon be in a House Committee which will either approve it or reject it. The CCI (County Commissioner Lobby organization) has already unanimously come out against this bill and we expect them to come out even stronger in the House Committee. We need your help by writing letters of support to Senator Ellen Roberts and or Representative Don Coram (Colorado State Capital, 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203) or by emailing us, Jerry Chesnut, jchesnut@centurytel.net or Davis Watson davisw@centurytel.net. If you have any questions or need a copy of Senate Bill 14-084, we are more than happy to answer them. Also, if you are in a position to show your support by testifying at the House Committee hearing please get in touch with us.

Davis Watson

Norwood

SCOUTING RETROSPECTIVE AT HEIDI'S FORUM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--This year marks the 104th Anniversary of Scouting and throughout those years there have been many changes and challenges. Come to the Forum on Wednesday, Feb. 5th to hear what scouting was like "back in the day", where it is today, what it has meant to for-

mer scouts, an outline of the "Gathering of Eagles" project and what is coming in the future.

The program has been organized by Rex Swanson, a former Eagle Scout himself. Rex's speakers will be Kirby Kline, who will talk briefly about what scouting has meant to him, Leland Johnsen, District

Executive with the Western Colorado Council of Boy Scouts of American and Clay Campbell, District Chairman.

We meet from 8 am to 9 am at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli every Wednesday. Heidi's is in the Oxbow Center on South Townsend Ave. Coffee is a dollar and breakfast is available. See you there.

TO REC OR NOT TO REC? VOTERS TO DECIDE from page 9

of the community.”

Sherbenou also cited construction costs, which are presently low but rebounding, and said that community concerns over potentially higher fees are addressed in the new plan.

“Plan improvements found in Measure B grew directly from concerns we heard during and following the last vote,” he said. “This led to MRD becoming a Silver-Sneakers site, which provides free memberships for seniors with certain health plans. Additionally, it led to a drastic reduction in the proposed annual fee for both youth and seniors to the CRC, to \$200. This is just \$20 more per year than the current aquatic center, yet a great deal more will be provided with a multi-purpose recreation center. Some fees will go up relative to the current aquatic center, such as the adult drop-in fee and some will go down, such as the youth drop in fee. The full fee schedule is included in the CRC final presentation found at www.montroserec.com.”

Jason Ullman, who serves as Co-Chair (with Barbara Bynum) of the Friends of the Montrose Community Recreation Center, had this comment: “A lot of misinformation is being spread in the community in an attempt to fool the public into believing that our plan is not financially viable, but as a Recreation District Board member I am confident that the plan, including the 3/10 of a percent sales tax increase, is financially conservative and will insure that if Measure B passes we can build the facility promised.

“For goodness sakes, it only costs 3/10 of a penny on every dollar to build such a wonderful community amenity,” Ullman said. “This amounts to approximately \$21 in additional tax per year for Montrose families that spend \$7,000 in a year. The opposition is also making light of the fact that the Recreation District will take on debt (Certificates of Participation) to construct the \$25 million facility. This is true, and we are not hiding that fact, but it is similar to a family obtaining a mortgage to purchase a house. I doubt very many families purchased their homes without a mortgage and the associated interest that goes along with it. Another misconception I would like to dispel is that only a small percentage of the population will use the facility. This has been proven untrue in other locations such as Delta where at any given time their facility is bustling with

activities for all ages, or in Fruita where a recent phone poll revealed that 80 percent of the people had used the Rec Center in the past 12 months. We would like to make sure everyone has the information they need to make an informed decision on Measure B and anyone with questions can visit our website at www.montrosecrc.org, call Jason Ullmann at 970-497-9716 or email us at info@montrosecrc.org.”

“WE CAN’T AFFORD THIS.”

When the City of Montrose approved Measure B for placement on the spring ballot at a council meeting in January, citizens expressed both support for and opposition to the measure, including several County residents who expressed frustration that they will not have a vote in the City election.

More specific opposition is being presented by retired Montrose CPA Curt Robinson, however.

“In 1986, we approved a bond to build a new swimming pool,” Robinson said. “We needed \$1.3 million, and in order to get that, we raised the mill levy.

“We needed it badly, and I busted my butt to make that happen,” Robinson said. “I am not opposed to a new Rec Center, and I do believe we need new pools.”

Local schools are also in need of improvements, which Robinson believes to be more of a priority for a community with a struggling economy.

“The debt service on the rec center alone would be 140 percent of what it cost to build the current pool,” Robinson said. “(MRD Director) Ken Sherbenou tells me that a new pool would cost somewhere around \$10.5 million, but their total project costs \$29 million.

“I am pro Rec District,” he said, “and I will stack my record against anyone who is on the current board. They have real problems, and I do favor a new pool. The one we have is crowded, and the community has outgrown it.

“What I am not in favor of is the use of a sales tax,” he said. “The City and the County of Montrose are already among the only places on the Western Slope that tax groceries. And they want to provide a first-class facility for the elite of our community by hitting the poorest in our community—this takes food off tables.” The Montrose Recreation District, despite its rural location, is among the best financed in the state, he continued.

“When the community de-Bruiced the district in 1996, I helped to make that happen,” Robinson said. “The problem is that now, they have too much money, and that is driving the train.”

Robinson pointed out that Montrose County is among the lowest third in the state when it comes to per capita income, and said that he feels the MRD board is out of touch with the rest of the community. “Our city and county leadership are hurting Montrose, and keeping us mired in a recession when other areas are in recovery,” he said.

According to Robinson, MRD assessed taxes were \$1,148,767 in 2007, and \$1,605,335 in 2013, an increase of 40 percent over 2008, the year the recession began.

“They are bringing in revenues in excess of need,” he said. “They have been saving money over the past five or six years, and yet this board has no qualms about going to the people for more. What we need shouldn’t cost a fortune.”

Robinson, who raised four kids here in Montrose, believes that basketball courts to get kids out of the house are a good idea, and he expressed support for the City’s proposal to let kids play free at Black Canyon Golf Course. “We need that here, and I support that,” he said. “We should look at what we can do to get kids off their cell phones and outside. But it should not cost us an arm and a leg.”

Robinson summed up his opposition to Measure B in three statements.

“Number one, we need to fund our public schools first,” he said. “Number two, this facility is being built for the elite, but their own numbers show that they need to increase user fees to make this pay. In 2014, projected user fees are \$518,000. In 2016, if this is built, projections show user fees at \$1,200,000. I believe their reasoning is flawed; they think they will more than double usage, but they are planning to increase fees.

“Number three, if we can build a pool for \$10 million, it means that \$18 million is being spent on the rest of the facility—it’s the fluff that is killing this project.”

Robinson also pointed out that Bill Heddles Rec Center in Delta generates \$750,000 in user fees annually.

“How does Montrose come up with a \$1,200,000?” he asked. “Once this (Measure B) fails, I would like to see them take the money they already have and do what they need to do.”

MIRROR IMAGES

MONTROSE ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Left--The Montrose Rotary Club celebrated Jordan Weig as a Rotary Student of the Week. Rotarian John Eloie presented the award and joining Jordan were here parents, Eric Weig (dad) and Dr. Mindy Miller (mom). Right--The Montrose Rotary Club honored Brian Bond as their Student of the Week. Brian was joined by his mom, Lidia, and sister, Brianna. Rotarian Pete Peterson presented the award.

MMH HEALTH FAIR SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, March 1 from 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be February 5-8 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the **Montrose Pavilion** Main Ballroom.

Early Blood Draws will also be available on February 3 at the American Legion Hall in **Olathe**, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on February 1 in **Ridgway**, at the 4-H Events

Center from 7-10 am. **Appointments for ALL three locations must be made for the Early Blood Draws. Appointments can be made at**

www.MontroseHospital.com Jan. 21st-29th or by calling 1-888-592-6255 Jan. 21-23 between 8 a.m. and 1 pm. The following blood tests will be offered at the Early Blood Draws and the Health Fair.

The total chemistry profile evaluates kidney function, electrolytes, triglycerides, HDL and LDL cholesterol levels and over 15 components in the blood. The profile

also includes iron, iron binding and TSH (Thyroid Screening). The cost of this test is \$40.

The PSA blood test for prostate cancer, offered for men 40 and older, is \$30 and the CBC (complete blood count) blood test, is \$20 and the Hemoglobin A1c, which is an additional screening for diabetes, will cost \$35.00.

We also have the Vitamin D screening for \$40. New tests this year include the Vitamin B-12 screening for \$35 and the Male Testosterone screening for \$40.

PORTIONS OF SPRING CREEK ROAD CLOSED FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Montrose County Public Works will be closing Spring Creek Road between 6200 Road and 6175 Road starting February 3, 2014, for culvert replacement. The road is expected to be closed one to two weeks. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes. For more information, please call Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.

MIRROR IMAGES

MONTROSE ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



At left--Kendall Cox was honored as Rotary Student of the Week. Rotarian Jim Elder presented the award and Kendall was joined by her parents, Nanci and Kent Cox. At right--Jeremy Herder was recognized the week of January 14 as the Rotary Student of the Week. Presenting the award is Rotarian Bob Tesch. Not pictures are Jeremy's parents, Julie Christy and Paul Herder.

Colorado Launches Go Code Colorado to Make Public Data More Accessible

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The State of Colorado launches Go Code Colorado, a [statewide public apps challenge](#) to bring the government, business and tech communities together to make public data more accessible and grow the Colorado economy.

Go Code Colorado is a bipartisan initiative of Colorado's Secretary of State's [Business Intelligence Center](#) (BIC), the Governor's Office and the Statewide Internet Portal Authority. Go Code Colorado is the first competition of its kind in the United States that uses public data to build business tools and grow commerce.

"Our inspiration for this project came from civic app events like [NYC Big Apps](#), as well as startup incubators like TechStars. While a one-weekend hackathon can produce some interesting ideas, we wanted Go Code Colorado to be bigger and more sustainable," said Secretary of State Scott Gessler.

"We have worked through the Colorado

Innovation Network and advancing a statewide brand to ensure Colorado is known as a place where entrepreneurship and innovation are valued and cultivated," Gov. John Hickenlooper said. "Go Code Colorado is yet another example of the state being at the forefront of innovation." Members of Colorado's business community recently submitted [five challenges](#) that they would like to see addressed through better access to public data, including issues such as business site location and access to capital.

Teams of Colorado app developers, marketers, mentors, partners and entrepreneurs will compete to address these challenges during the [Challenge Weekend, which will be held](#) March 21-23 locally in five regions across the state.

Two teams of finalists from each region will advance, giving them the opportunity to work with renowned tech and business mentors from Colorado over the next two months to improve and solidify their apps,

before competing at a [final competition](#) in Denver.

Three winners will receive cash awards, in-kind incentives and investor connections.

Go Code Colorado hopes to be an example of collaboration between tech and government communities that can be applied across the U.S. and spur economic growth in Colorado and beyond.

Anyone interested in joining the challenge or supporting Go Code Colorado is encouraged to sign up at [go-code.colorado.gov](#).

About Go Code Colorado

Go Code Colorado is an apps challenge designed to make public data more accessible and user-friendly. Teams of developers and entrepreneurs across the state will compete to solve business problems and grow our economy, by building apps that will help Colorado companies thrive. Build apps. Build business. Build Colorado.

RAISING THE SPARKS...AND CREATING A BETTER WORLD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—She was born and raised in Colorado, and learned her lifelong profession of jewelry design while still a student at George Washington High School in East Denver. To this day, Melanie Kline credits much of her success in life to the tools and skills she acquired as a Denver teen. Kline will share her journey and accomplishments as creator of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans with the Ouray Women's Club on Feb. 18.

"Colorado is a good place for the arts," Kline said. "I spent 20 years on Cape Cod as a young adult—it was a great place to raise my two kids—but when I have lived in other places I have always been surprised that they don't seem to have the same opportunities."

It's no surprise that Kline eventually created a line of jewelry called "Cowgirl at Heart," because her own heart has always belonged to the Rocky Mountain West.

"When my dad died, suddenly there was no longer anyone in Colorado for me to come and visit," she said. "So I left the Northeast and my work in high-end jewelry to find a place back home."

That was when Kline, who had never been to Ouray, visited there for the first time.

"I stumbled on Ouray, and bought a house there in 1991," she said. "It was the cheapest house in town, and I still have it."

In 2001, Kline moved to Ouray to live full time, establishing her business, Ouray Silversmiths. The company opened a retail outlet in Montrose when Kline moved here in 2007. Though she had established herself as one of the premiere designers of Judaica in the world—Kline was invited to prepare a one-woman show for the Washington DC Hebrew Congregation a decade ago—she found herself moving on to new frontiers as a designer, creating the sought-after "Cowgirl at Heart" line.

"I thought I would just keep doing Judaica, but I had given it my all," she explains. "I still had my studio though, so I created a line inspired by this place. I was so happy to be home."

Today, one of Kline's two sons owns and



Photographer Dave Bernier took this photo for the Montrose Mirror at the opening ceremony for Welcome Home Montrose in March of 2012 at the Montrose Pavilion. Melanie Kline is shown with Gary Love, father of injured Marine Todd Love. Photo by Dave Bernier.

operates Ouray Silversmiths with his own family, and Kline herself has moved on—though not exactly to retirement.

Two years ago she found herself watching a television program about America's returning veterans, and the challenges they face. Kline wished there was something she could do to help, a desire that inspired her to create [Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center](#), a local non-profit that has achieved national recognition for its work in easing the transition for veterans as they return to civilian life. Located at 11 South Park Avenue, the Warrior Resource Center has become a place of support for all U.S. veterans, of any age, any branch of the military, and from any conflict. It was the work being done through Welcome Home Montrose that helped Montrose earn recognition as an All America City in 2013, work in which Kline is assisted by her "right hand," WRC Executive Director Emily Smith.

"It's pretty neat to work with Emily," Kline said. "I have never been happier—there are so many great people in the world, and because of Welcome Home Montrose, I know that."

Though she turns 65 this year, Kline looks forward not to relaxation, but to the opportunity to get back to work as a designer—and to continue changing the world. Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center have been embraced by the community, have established many local partnerships, and are inspiring other communities to join in—the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans has been working with a group of volunteers in Durango who hope to create a similar endeavor.

Kline believes her Jewish faith has played an enormous role in her life choices.

"There is a Hebrew phrase, Tikkun Olam," she said. "It is about 'raising the sparks,' and helping create a better world."

"I still sell my designs through the store," she added. "But I now find myself looking at life in a whole different way. Sometimes I envy those who are not always searching for that next opportunity—it's a restless thing. But maybe it's because, as an artist, I see how things COULD be. That's what artists do—they take something, and turn it into something else."

"We are always looking around to see what we can change."

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM THE MONTROSE MIRROR!

WELCOME HOME MONTROSE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Do you need to hire a great employee with a strong work ethic? Here at the Warrior Resource Center, we want to connect hard-working veterans with available positions. To that end, we keep veterans' resumes on file here, and maintain a job board with up-to-date postings from employers and job seekers. There are tax incentives in place for those who employ veterans--please consider hiring one of our nation's warriors as they return to Civilian life!

Our new conference room is shaping up beautifully! WRC volunteers are creating a space within our canteen for counselors and others who need a secluded area in which to serve veterans. Thanks to this effort, our PTSD and other support groups will have a dedicated meeting space. We are rearranging and moving things in anticipation—thank you to our volunteers John Bish, Ed Ulibarri, Dan Pienckowski, & Kevin Dodson. Supplies were donated by Outwest Drywall,

ProBuild, Alpine Lumber, & Sunnyside Homebuilders.

Congratulations to all of our dedicated WRC volunteers, and especially to wounded warrior **Tim Kenney of Toad's Guide Shop—our 2013 Volunteer of the Year!**

WRC Volunteer and Air Force spouse Mysti Miller and her husband recently went to MAX Archery, in search of a bow that would not aggravate the five reconstructive surgeries he has had on a shoulder. Fellow veterans Heath and Jesse McCombs worked with him, and found just the right bow.

"They found him a bow that doesn't hurt his shoulder, and they even offer a veteran's discount," Miller said.

Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center are also the beneficiaries of the generous **North American Directory Services (NADS)** company, which places service directories in hotel rooms and other spots across the United States. Once again, they are featuring us in a free ¼ page advertisement.

Here at home, we wish to thank the **Montrose Daily Press** for including Welcome Home Montrose in their reader's choice of non-profits. We have been chosen to receive a portion of proceeds from new subscription sales! Thanks also to Managing Editor Justin Joiner and Publisher Francis Wick for making space in the Press and for publishing the first in a series of monthly articles profiling veterans, entitled "Still Serving," written by WRC volunteer and retired Lt. Col. Susan P. Zanol.

The "We've got your Six" pledge drive continues! The Warrior Resource Center is funded completely with private donations, and does not belong to any branch of the government. Your support is essential as we move forward in our mission to support America's wounded warriors. It is so easy to make a difference, and it can be done simply with a credit card or through automatic payments set up through your financial institution!

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Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

First Friday Strolls Montrose Downtown —Monthly from 5:30 p.m.-8p.m. Artist Demonstrations, Free Wine Tastings, and in store promotional events!

Feb. 5-8—Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. For appointments call 1-888-592-6255 from Jan. 21-23.

Feb. 5—Montrose Historical Society General Meeting. Featured is speaker Keith Lucy of Delta: Western Colorado and the Civil War. Montrose County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Feb. 5—Heidi's Brooklyn Deli Forum presents Eagle Scout Retrospective with Rex Swanson. 8 to 9 a.m. 1521 Oxbow Drive. Coffee is \$1.

Feb. 5—Re-1J School District Spelling Bee, 6 p.m. Oak Grove Elementary School.

Feb. 6—Coffee with Re-1J Superintendent. Upstairs at Coffee Trader (845 Main St.) 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 7—First Friday Stroll—A=Y Gallery presents a chocolate lover's stroll! Come Downtown! 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Feb. 7—First Friday Stroll Free Wine Tasting, Canyon Gallery (300 East Main).

Feb. 7—Volunteers of America presents Valley Manor Care Center Annual Giving Event, 6 to 9 p.m. RSVP 970-249-9634.

Feb. 7-8—Silverton's Kendall Mountain 50th Anniversary celebration. More information is available at www.skikendall.com or www.silvertoncolorado.com. Contact: Chelsea Stromberg, Town of Silverton (970) 387-5522 cstromberg@silverton.co.us.

Feb. 8—Eagle Scout Event. 10 to 11 a.m. at Homestead of Montrose, Pavilion Drive. Admission is free. Please join us in celebration of our local Eagle Scouts, and enjoy light refreshments and a presentation on scouting in Western Colorado.

Feb. 8—Black Canyon of the Gunnison Winter Rim Romp. For race registration (\$20 until February 6th, then \$25 race day, register at www.runningguru.com/event/rimromp2014).

Feb. 9—Susan Walton to play at Powderhorn Ski Resort's Sunset Grill, 3 to 6 p.m. With Kevin Humphreys, Jeff Sauer.

Feb. 13—Montrose-Delta League of Women Voters Presents "Our Land, Our Water, Our Food, Our Future, they are in Our Hands." Noon, to 1 p.m., Montrose Regional Library Community Room.

Feb. 14—Magic Circle Players present "My Funny Valentine" benefit concert at Montrose Pavilion Events Center. V.I.P. Reception 6 p.m., curtain opens at 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets at the Magic Circle Theater box office (420 South 12th St.) or at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center (1800 Pavilion Drive). \$50 for V.I.P. passes, which include reserved seating, \$20 for general admission seats, and \$15 for students.

Feb. 14—Rodeo and Juliet at the 4H Event Center in Ridgway." This event is sponsored by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.ocpag.org or they will be sold at the door.

Feb. 14—Newcomer boot stomp event, Anders Brothers to play. Turn of the Century. \$20 admission. Call 901-6761.

Feb. 15—Montrose Winter Farmers Market, inside behind Straw Hat Farm Market Store at 514 South First St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 15—The Business 2 Business Expo put on by the Montrose Chamber of Commerce takes place at the Montrose Pavilion. This is a perfect opportunity to promote your business, product, or service to the community. The event is open to the public from 10 am – 4 pm. If you are interested in being an exhibitor please contact the Montrose Chamber of Commerce at 970-249-5000.

Feb. 18—Womens' Club of Ouray County Monthly Meeting—Ouray Community Center, 1 to 3 p.m. Guest speaker is Melanie Kline of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans. The public is welcome to attend.

Feb. 21—MEDC Annual Lunch, Holiday Inn Express, Noon. Call 970-249-9438 for reservations and information.

Feb. 22—Mark your calendars for the Montrose County Historical Society Third Annual "Pioneer Social", featuring "the DeJulio family", at the United Methodist Church, 19 South Park, Montrose. On Feb. 22, 2014, The Social program will begin at 2 pm. Donations will be taken at the door, and everyone is invited. Period attire is encouraged. For more information please call Sally at 970-249-2085.

Feb. 22—Montrose Arts Council presents a salon with pianist Kirill Gliadkovsky, 3 p.m. at a private location. Featuring American and Spanish composers. Enjoy Hors d'oeuvres, wine and sparkling cider. Tickets are \$40, seating is limited. Call 970-240-1602 for tickets and information.

March 1—Montrose Memorial Hospital 2014 Health Fair. from 6:30 a.m. to Noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be Feb.5-8 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Montrose Pavilion Main Ballroom.

March 1—Montrose Winter Farmers Market, inside behind Straw Hat Farm Market Store at 514 South First St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 15—Montrose Winter Farmers Market, inside behind Straw Hat Farm Market Store at 514 South First St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 21—Blue Sky Music Presents Eilen Jewell and Emma Cooper at Turn of the Century.Saloon. Call 970-275-4183 for information.

March 28-29—Delta Home, Garden & Recreation Show, Bill Heddles Rec Center, 530 Gunnison River Drive. Friday hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 70+ vendors, giveaways and demonstrations. Vendor applications available at www.DeltaColorado.org or by calling 874-8616.

March 28-30—Telluride Ski Resort presents Mountain Town Get Down. The event will kick-off with live music at Tomboy Tavern on Friday, March 28th. On Saturday, March 29th a free concert will take place in the Mountain Village core from 2-7pm featuring national touring reggae acts. Then, on Sunday, March 30th, the Mountain Town Get Down will wrap-up with the annual Bikini Slalom and Luau at Gorrano Ranch.

April 5—Montrose Winter Farmers Market, inside behind Straw Hat Farm Market Store at 514 South First St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 12—Casa of the Seventh Judicial District Ray of Hope Event, Montrose Pavilion, 6 to 9 p.m. Call 970-249-0337 for more information.

Together, We Can Make A Real Difference.

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of others while building your network of friends, strengthening your leadership skills and implementing new ideas?

Share your gifts and talents and become part of meaningful change for an older adult.

Volunteering is based on your schedule, so the time you spend is effective and enjoyable.

Contact one of our care centers or programs below to begin your journey.



Horizons Health Care & Retirement	(970) 835-3113
Valley Manor Care Center	(970) 249-9634
The Homestead at Montrose	(970) 252-9359
Home Health of Western Colorado	(970) 240-0139
Senior Community Care PACE Montrose	(970) 252-0522
Senior Community Care PACE Eckert	(970) 835-8500
Senior Community Care Meals	(970) 835-8028



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Contact the Montrose Mirror:

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Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-5791

Email Us: Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com



Top left—Montrose County's 18 Dispatch professionals now have a state-of-the-art facility in which to serve the community. Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap, who said that the process of updating the Dispatch facility took two and half years, called the new equipment, enhanced capabilities and improved functionality "exciting." Pictured are Dispatchers Robert Svacha and Robbie Murdie.

Top right—Another great year for the Black Canyon Outdoor Expo! Photo by Clay Greathouse.

Below—That calm horse about town waits for his rider outside the Daily Bread Bakery last week.

2014 Health Fair

Early Blood Draws

Montrose Pavilion
February 5, 6, 7, & 8
6:30-9:30 a.m.

Additional Locations for Early Blood Draws

February 1st
4H Event Center in Ridgway 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

February 3rd
American Legion Hall in Olathe 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Appointments may be made online for all three locations at
www.MontroseHospital.com
January 20 - 29

Phone appointments will be taken January 21-23 from
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1-888-592-6255

12 hour fast required. Drink lots of water!
We will NOT bill your insurance. Checks and cash only.

Blood Tests Offered

- Chemistry & Lipid Profile ~ \$40
(includes iron binding and TSH)
- Hemoglobin A1C ~ \$35
(additional screening for diabetes)
- PSA for Prostate Health ~ \$30
 - CBC ~ \$20
(complete blood count)
- Vitamin D Screening ~ \$40
- Vitamin B-12 ~ \$35
- Male Testosterone ~ \$40

Health Fair 2014 is
Saturday, March 1

The lines are long, so MMH offers early blood draws to make it more convenient for you.

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